

Shultz-Gorbachov talks fail to resolve differences

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Preparations for the Geneva summit meeting were completed last night after 14 hours of intensive Soviet-American negotiations, but with no sign of progress in resolving differences on any of the major issues.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, acknowledged after four hours of face-to-face negotiations in the Kremlin with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, that many serious differences remain. Both US and Soviet sources are pessimistic about substantive agreement in Geneva.

Although he refused to give details, Mr Shultz used the diplomatic euphemism "vigorous" to describe his exchanges with Mr Gorbachov. Each had interrupted the other, he said, on points of disagreement.

With a shrug of his shoulders, Mr Shultz explained in his customary low-key manner: "He is accustomed to interrupting and expressing a point of view. When in Moscow, do as the Russians do, so we interrupted too. He denied sharply the suggestion of a senior US correspondent that the much-heralded meeting had degenerated into a shouting-match.

Mr Shultz refused to spell out the topics of the disagreements, but did disclose that the subject of human rights had been discussed "rather fully".

The meeting, in Mr Gorbachov's fourth-floor office, was clouded by the recent flood of anti-American propaganda in the Soviet media and the latest bitter diplomatic row over the

alleged KGB defector, Mr Vitaly Yurchenko.

Mr Shultz hinted that there was no chance of his being allowed unconditionally out of the US, as the Russians have requested, and said that the issue had come up only briefly in the talks.

President Reagan today challenges Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, to compete with the West not in armaments, but for the benefit of mankind. Writing exclusively in *The Times* two weeks before he is due to meet Mr Gorbachov in Geneva, he declares: "We are not afraid of such a competition. Is Mr Gorbachov? I call on him to join us, today, in this new context."

Bicentenary Focus, pages 33 to 40

US insists on confirming Yurchenko's wish to return

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The United States insisted yesterday it would not allow Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, the would-be KGB defector who announced on Monday that he wanted to return to Moscow, to leave the US until American authorities were fully satisfied he was going back voluntarily.

"We will insist on meeting him to satisfy ourselves of his real intentions," the White House spokesman said. This would have to be in a place where he was free of possible Soviet coercion.

The Soviet Embassy had given a pledge that it will not try to spirit Mr Yurchenko out of the country before a meeting takes place with American officials. "They understand that we would regard any such attempt as a very serious matter," the State Department said.

Asked whether the affair was a set-up, the spokesman said: "It appears it was a personal decision and we will attempt to confirm this at a meeting with him. He had no diplomatic immunity."

Mr Yurchenko, whose extraordinary public change of heart and accusations against the US intelligence service have startled the administration, is now in the Soviet Embassy.

Mr Oleg Sokolov, the Chargé d'Affaires, delivered a formal protest to the State Department on Monday, accusing the US of state terrorism. Mr Yurchenko had been involved in a "pre-planned, monstrously inhumane operation of the American special services". This was "a flagrant trampling upon human rights and dignity".

The State Department immediately rejected the protest, saying Mr Yurchenko's allegations at his press conference were "completely false and without foundation". He defected of his own volition to the American Embassy in Rome and signed a statement requesting political asylum.

"At no time was Mr Yurchenko held or coerced by improper, illegal or unethical means," the State Department said. It had referred to Mr Sokolov the charges that Mr Yurchenko had been drugged and brought to the country against his will.

● **ROME:** The idea that Mr Yurchenko was drugged and kidnapped inside The Vatican was described last night by the Pope's spokesman, as "altogether incredible and fantastic" (Peter Nichols writes).

Defection riddle, page 8



Princess Alexandra, who begins a visit to Canada today for the 125th anniversary of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (Photograph: Snowdon).

New editor appointed for The Times

By Rupert Morris

Mr Charles Wilson has been appointed Editor of *The Times* in succession to Mr Charles Douglas-Home, who died last week.

Mr Wilson, aged 50, has been joint deputy editor of *The Times* for the past year, and since March has been editorial director in charge of *The London Post*, due to be published next spring.

Born in Glasgow, he worked his way up through newspapers from being a copy boy on *The People* at the age of 16. After two years' service in the Royal Marines he joined the *News Chronicle* as a reporter, then the *Daily Mail*, where he held several executive posts.

In 1976 he became editor of the *Evening Times*, Glasgow, and briefly edited the *Glasgow Herald* before launching the *Sunday Standard*, which he edited from April 1981 until August 1982 when he joined *The Times* as executive editor. For three months in 1984 he edited the *Chicago Sun-Times* which Mr Rupert Murdoch had bought.

Mr Wilson is married to Miss Sally O'Sullivan, the editor of *Options* magazine, and has two daughters and a son.

His appointment was unanimously approved by the six independent national directors of *Times Newspapers*, whose consent is required before Mr Murdoch, the chairman, can appoint a new editor.



Mr Charles Wilson, Editor of *The Times*

BT speeds changes to meet competition

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

British Telecommunications is speeding up the £1 billion modernization of its national telephone network with a crash programme of main exchange and transmission equipment installations.

BT announced yesterday that it planned to replace the old network with a fully digital system by the spring of 1988 - four years earlier than planned.

The programme would allow BT to cut its cost substantially, enabling the national network to shed about 4,000 of its 12,000 workforce, Mr Ron Back, managing director of national networks, said.

The company hopes that most of the job reductions will come through natural wastage and redeployment within the group.

The new digital network would bring considerable benefits, reducing the cost of distance calls and speeding up the time it takes to connect them, Mr Back said.

The new urgency in the modernization programme is in part a response to the competitive threat posed by Mercury Communications, the Cable and Wireless subsidiary licensed by the Government to challenge BT's monopoly.

Mr Back said that while the old network had served its 20 million customers well, it was designed primarily to carry speech, and was inflexible and costly.

"Today's business environment increasingly demands facilities for handling data, text, facsimile, graphics, television pictures and other forms of communications,"

Mr Back said that all the software problems associated with the System X digital exchange had been overcome and he was hopeful of having all 57 main exchanges necessary to complete the modernization of the network in place before the spring of 1988.

BT also hopes to have about 1,400 fully digital local exchanges in place by the spring of 1988, enabling about 25 per cent of its customers to take full advantage of the digital system.

£1bn share sale, page 17

Britain loses huge US deal

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Britain has lost its bid for the largest foreign military contract ever placed by the United States. The Pentagon was due to announce yesterday afternoon that it had chosen the French RITA battlefield communications system over the British Piarmigan system.

The decision ends one of the most ferocious commercial and political battles between Britain and France for a contract worth \$4.3 billion (£2.9 billion). The Pentagon was on the verge of announcing its choice of RITA three months ago when Mrs Thatcher intervened personally, asking President Reagan to have another look at Piarmigan.

The Prime Minister drew attention to Britain's reliability as an ally and its support of American military policy. The implication was that Britain should be rewarded for supporting President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) which President Mitterrand has rejected.

Her action, which deeply angered Paris, immediately gave a political dimension to the decision. The Department of Defence ordered a new review and outside analysis of the merits of the two systems.

The expected announcement was repeatedly delayed, mainly, it is thought, because the White House did not want to offend Britain during important negotiations on SDI and during consultations on the Soviet-American summit. The French refused to lobby politically, saying the contract should be awarded purely on its merits.

Under both systems the bulk of the work was to be done in the United States. Thomson-CSF, the French group manufacturing RITA, is allied to GTE Corporation, based in Stamford, Connecticut. Plessey was paired with Rockwell International.

RITA emerged early as the favourite because it is about 20 per cent cheaper, a big consideration as the Pentagon is under pressure to cut its budget. RITA is also already in use with the French and Belgian armies.

Piarmigan, which the British claim is more sophisticated and versatile, so far has only been used by the British Army of the Rhine, though American visitors have been impressed during the many demonstrations of its capabilities.

The contract will provide the US Army with a mobile multi-channel telephone and teletype system safe from eavesdropping. It operates like cellular telephones in big cities. RITA will be deployed among five US Army corps and 26 divisions by 1993.

There were several hints here in recent months that the US favoured RITA. To lessen British disappointment, the White House made much of US encouragement to Saudi Arabia.

Continued on back page, col 2

Academic staff cuts create imbalance

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Department of Education and Science's £238 million university staff redundancy scheme, under which some teachers were paid more than £100,000, has left the universities with a shortage of engineers and too many social scientists.

Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, yesterday strongly criticized the operation of the three-year scheme, which was completed last year with average compensation payments of £27,000 made to 4,400 academic staff.

He said in a report to Parliament: "Amongst the effects to emerge were a sharp deterioration in staff: student ratios as universities shed posts faster than they reduced student numbers; and a greater than average reduction in posts in engineering, technology, mathematics and computer sciences, which it had been the intention to protect."

"Some universities had over-shot their desired staff losses in some academic areas and would have to start recruiting again whilst they still had to make further reductions in other areas, particularly in the arts and social sciences."

The Government has responded to the crisis by providing funds for the recruitment of 800 extra "new blood" staff, 650 of them in science and technological subjects.

Sir Gordon said that the purpose of the redundancy exercise had been to cut university costs, but he also said that it was "an exercise which was intended to ensure that actual staff reductions sufficiently favoured the academic departments it was the aim to protect or encourage, and bit upon those it was intended to cut back."

In the event, he reported, "the existing serious imbalance in university staffing, and some problems in individual faculties, had been exacerbated."

Altogether, the universities exceeded their target for academic staff cuts, with 6,100 leaving through early retirement and natural wastage compared with a 4,700 target. For non-academic staff the universities failed to meet the target.

The report criticised the University Grants Committee for failing to take more direct control of the exercise; it failed to give each university a target blueprint of departmental staff loss targets; and it did not exercise its right to reject any claim for compensation on academic grounds.

Department of Education and Science: Redundancy Compensation Payments to University Staff (National Audit Office, House of Commons paper 598; Stationery Office, £2.80).

THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

National health
Profile of Donald
Acheson, Britain's
top doctor

Cut and thrust
Ronald Butt on the
challenges of the
new parliamentary session
Old guard
Miles Kingston on
the hard men of
British museums

Safe play
New steps in eye
protection on
the squash court

Portfolio

There were three winners in yesterday's £2,000 Times Portfolio competition. Mr B Webb of Stroud, Gloucestershire, Mrs G Buckley of London and Mr Gary Lowe of London each received £666. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

On Saturday there is £22,000 to be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Fowler to retain and cut Serps

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has decided to restrict and cut the costs of the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) rather than phase it out. He has identified six main steps necessary to contain the emerging costs of the scheme. Page 2

Pub identified in rape attack

Police are linking last weekend's M4 rape with a rape in Epsom last month, and confirmed that the latter attack took place behind the Windmill public house, south Norwood, London. Page 3

Super Sainsbury

J Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, lifted its pretax profits by 23 per cent to £92.4 million in the half year to October 3. Page 17

12 pages of jobs

There are 12 pages of appointments from all sections of business in *The Times* tomorrow.

Royal loser

The Prince of Wales backed the favourite - and lost - when he attended Australia's biggest horse race, the Melbourne Cup. Page 8

Warsaw switch

General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, is to hand over the premiership to a close Cabinet ally, well-placed sources say, but will retain power as Communist Party leader. Page 32

Gas plant blast

Fifty workers are missing after several explosions devastated a gas storage terminal in Texas.

Home holidays

The Scottish tourist industry is to spend about £6 million on poster advertising to help counter the cut-price offers of British travel agencies.

Karpov ahead

Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, was in a strong position when he adjourned the 22nd game of his match against challenger Gary Kasparov. Earlier report, page 8

Llanelli win

Llanelli recovered from a 25-0 deficit to beat the Fijians 31-28 and gain their third successive win over touring teams. Page 23

Leader page, 15
Letters: On drugs, from Dr C. Brewer; VCs, from Mr G. M. Wilson

Leading articles: Breakaway Labour miners; France and Greenpeace; Philippines Features, pages 12-14

Who steals old masters?; Sinn Féin dilemma; Moreover: your stars by night; A palace restored; Intimate empire: the Marriage Guidance Council; Obituary, page 16

The Rev Canon Guy Pentreath, Mr Michael Balkwill

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Another pit votes to join new union

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

Leaders of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers were given a further boost yesterday when miners at Daw Mill colliery, Warwickshire, voted by three to one to leave the National Union of Mineworkers and join the break-away.

Mr Dick Emery, the former NUM branch secretary at Daw Mill, said that his men would now be canvassing as the county's other three pits on behalf of the breakaway after yesterday's "marvellous" result.

The decision by the 1,139 miners who had cast their votes was a vote against Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president.

Mr Scargill said last night that the decision was no surprise and pledged that the NUM would continue to organise at the pit.

Sombre TUC, page 3
Leading article, page 15

Russia grants visas to UK diplomats

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union has approved three visa applications for British officials to replace diplomats and embassy staff who were ordered to leave Moscow in retaliation for the expulsion of Soviet officials from London seven weeks ago.

The Soviet authorities are considering a further five visa applications submitted by the Foreign Office.

Altogether 31 British diplomats, embassy staff businessmen and journalists were thrown out of Moscow after Britain decided to expel 31 Russians who were accused of working for the KGB.

The speed with which Moscow has approved the first visa applications is seen as a further sign that the Kremlin wants to draw a line under the tit-for-tat spy row and to improve relations with London as quickly as possible.

First evidence of the Soviet desire for better relations came last month when Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, sent a message of greeting to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on her sixtieth birthday.

The visas which Moscow has approved are for a first secretary, a second secretary (commercial) and a member of the British embassy support staff.

British officials emphasized yesterday that it would still take a long time to fill all the 23 posts left vacant at the embassy in Moscow as there are only a limited number of British diplomats who speak Russian or who have a detailed knowledge of the Soviet Union.

The Russians have also started filling the vacancies left by the expulsion of its officials from London. The British have so far approved visa applications for two Russian "ancillary organizations" to send representatives back to London.

Conran in design review of industry

By Beryl Downing

Industry should watch out - there's a designer about. Eighteen of them are settling down this winter to put British manufacturers to rights and to re-establish them as world beaters.

They include (of course) Sir Terence Conran founder of Habitat, Rodney Fitch, the designer's designer, and many distinguished names from industry, management and commerce. Representatives of the City and the unions are still being sought.

It is the idea of the National Economic Development Office, which despite its name has headed Mrs Thatcher's publicised commitment to design, in the manner of all official bodies, Nedo is setting up two committees to follow their leader.

The first is a working party, chaired by Mr James Pidditch, founder of AIDCOM International, one of the largest design consultancies in the world, and including Mr Uwe Bahnsen, head of design for Ford Europe and Dr John Constable, director of the British Institute of Management.

Their aim is to find the 'good guys' and the 'bad boys' among manufacturers and to do so they will study the most successful companies in the world - IBM, Olivetti, Sony among them - to see what they do right and we do wrong.

They also are researching thousands of British companies to define the effect design policies, or the lack of them, have on their achievements.

Already 11,500 questionnaires have been sent out.

The second committee has the imposing title of review board and, being the grander body, will meet only three times before the final recommendations are made to Nedo next summer. On this board Sir Terence is joined by two other designing knights, Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Design Council and Professor Sir Frederick Warner, principal consultant of Cremer and Warner.

Sir Terence's study of Japanese manufacture and retailing which gave him useful ammunition in the Burton battle for Debenhams no doubt will come in handy.

"We want our research to be truly international to discover just what makes the top companies tick," Mr Pidditch said. "Three things we know they have in common is a boss who cares like mad about the product he makes, an insistence on quality and a genuine concern for the customer, which used to be hallmarks of British industry."

If caring like mad about the product is among the main criteria perhaps some of our leading industrialists should take note of the technique practised by the head of Sony.

He has specially made poacher pockets added to his navy Japanese suit so that he can carry his products around with him. It is what is known as a close encounter of the profitable kind.

Base rates cut unlikely until New Year

The Government has ruled out an early cut in interest rates, despite a fall in the money supply, last month. David Smith writes. Base rates, now 11.5 per cent, are unlikely to fall until the New Year.

Despite this, the Government and the financial markets remain concerned about the strong growth of credit. Last month's bank lending rose by £2.1 billion.

People are also taking out ever larger home loans, in the three months to the end of September, mortgage lending rose by £1,473 million. The average mortgage loan was £32,400.

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Bovis Construction wins £70,000 building contract.

"Would you kindly repeat that - left a few noughts off have we?"

"No mistake. During 1984 and 1985 we've also been appointed for projects costing £103,000, £50,000, £120,000, £100,000, £250,000..."

"But..."

"...£168,000, £73,000, £96,000, £100,000..."

"But, but..."

"£95,000, £116,000, £123,000, £140,000..."

"Stop! I thought Bovis Construction only took on multi-million pound Management Contracts and that projects of this size didn't get a look in. But I'm obviously wrong."

"Obviously."

Bovis
Bovis Construction Limited
(Quality is a rare bird.)

Bovis Construction Limited, Bovis House, Northolt Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0EE. Tel 01-422 3453.

Member of the F&O Group

Earnings-linked pensions to be kept but Fowler will seek cut in costs

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has decided to restrict and reduce the costs of the state earnings-linked pension scheme rather than phase it out.

The June Green Paper, *Reform of Social Security: Programme for Change*, proposed a gradual run-down of Serps and a three-year introduction of substitute occupational or personal pension arrangements requiring additional contributions of about £1.25 billion from employers and employees by 1990.

The impact of that figure has provoked the fiercest possible hostility from employers and unions, with the demand for the retention of Serps.

Mr Fowler told the Society of Pension Consultants in London last night that there was a widespread recognition that the emerging cost of Serps, put at £23 billion by 2033, had to be reduced.

In a warning directed as much at his critics inside the Government as outside it, he said: "Of all the arguments advanced following the social security Green Paper the most deeply unimpressive is the one put forward by those who agree that change is desirable, even overdue, but then go on nervously to add that, because the problems are so controversial, we should 'leave well alone'. That is the politics of weakness and evasion."

He said: "The time for consultation is now drawing to an end; the time for action has now arrived."

It is hoped that revised plans for a White Paper, which will also enhance the competitive attractions of alternative occupational or personal pension cover, will be agreed by the Cabinet within the next month and that the White Paper and legislation will be ready by the turn of the year, for full implementation in the new session of Parliament which starts today.

The Green Paper said that the eventual cost of Serps could be halved by reducing benefits, particularly for those with higher earnings.

The six main steps identified as necessary for "a substantial reduction" in the cost of Serps were: a change of entitlement period from 20 years to entitlement based on a lifetime earnings; a reduction in the rate at which entitlement accrues; make occupational schemes responsible for inflation-proofing the guaranteed minimum pension; halving the widow's full inheritance of a man's pension; increasing to 65 the age at which women could receive full Serps pensions; and cutting the pension payable for higher earners by progressively reducing the maximum earnings on which entitlement would be calculated.

Ironically, the new package,

which will boost alternative occupational and personal pension schemes while dampening expectations from Serps, is one which was initially supported by Mr Fowler, but it is said that he was beaten by a combination of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer who favoured Serps abolition.

Mr Fowler said last night that there was a widespread desire to see more people with their own pension.

● The Government's present plans for pensions will leave many more people with seriously inadequate pensions when they retire - perhaps only 10 per cent to 15 per cent of their earnings just before retirement, Mr Fowler was told last night (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Mr Brian Coote, president of the Society of Pension Consultants, said the Government needed to maintain an effective partnership between state, occupational and revamped forms of personal pensions. The failure to seek a political consensus for pensions policy was introducing "total uncertainty".

● The Society of Civil and Public Servants yesterday gave a warning of "mass industrial action" to block the Government's pension reforms if it goes ahead with plans to recruit 10,000 casual staff to allow the changes to come in by April 1987.



Mr Niall Moore, a geologist, examining for gold rock samples taken from the Sperrin Mountains in Co Tyrone which have yielded deposits among the most substantial in Western Europe.

Inner city spending review

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, disclosed yesterday that the Government had begun a review, involving at least three Cabinet ministers, of public spending in the inner cities.

The review, a value-for-money study of urban spending, was ordered by the Cabinet two weeks ago and the urgency with which it is being conducted reflects the deep concern among ministers after this year's inner city riots.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, are leading the study. Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, is also a member of the team. The Department of Education and Science is understood to be involved.

The Cabinet has agreed that a report should be made available as soon as possible. The ministers are understood to have had an initial meeting, but so far a chairman for the review has not been agreed.

Mr Lawson announced the study at the end of a discussion

on job creation in the inner cities at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, which he chairs. The Treasury will not be involved directly with the study team.

But a harder look at the way the money was spent was needed "to ensure that we are making the best use of it", Mr Lawson said.

It was being emphasized in Whitehall last night that the study was not a cost-cutting exercise and it had been a collective ministerial decision. It will focus attention on the urban programme - the government money that local authorities are allocated for specific renewal projects, the urban development corporations, and the Derelict Land Grants system.

The Government was also directing private money into

inner cities, notably through urban development grants which had placed nearly £400 million of private funds into 164 inner city projects during the past three years.

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inner cities, notably through urban development grants which had placed nearly £400 million of private funds into 164 inner city projects during the past three years.

Moderate ahead in AUEW ballot

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Mr Bill Jordan, a right-winger, yesterday won the first round of elections to find a successor to Mr Terry Duffy as president of the million-member Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Mr Jordan, a divisional organizer in the west Midlands and the late Mr Duffy's personal choice as his successor, moves forward to the final round of voting as clear favourite. He polled 72,311 votes compared with 50,754 for his nearest rival, Mr John Tocher, Manchester organizer and a left-winger.

Because there was no overall majority in the first ballot, the top two in the poll will enter a "run-off" next March.

Mr Gerry Russell, a prominent "centrist" member of the union's national executive who represents the north-west and Ireland, came fourth behind Mr David Graham, national organizer who polled 32,089. Mr Russell has been ill and unable to mount a campaign.

The efficient right-winger machine in the AUEW now will concentrate on picking up the votes that went to Mr Russell and Mr Graham who also is identified with the political centre.

£10m to supervise school meals

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday announced a new initiative in the teachers' pay dispute to deal with the disruption caused by teachers' refusal to supervise pupils at lunchtime.

He told the Association of County Councils conference in the Isle of Wight that he would give local education authorities £10 million this year, 1985-86, to pay for new schemes to keep schools supervised in spite of the teachers' action.

His announcement is significant because it shows how keen Sir Keith is to be seen to be doing something immediate about the nine-month-old pay dispute. It also demonstrates that he has acceded to the request of Mrs Nicky Harrison, the leader of the local authority employers, who asked for money this year.

It was at the Conservative Party conference that Sir Keith said he would give £40 million next year, 1986-87, for new schemes to solve the "midday supervision" difficulty.

£20m freed for universities

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has managed to wring roughly £20 million extra out of the Exchequer for spending on the universities and on science research, according to Whitehall sources.

● The two sides in the "obscene graffiti" dispute which has disrupted Poundsdown High School in Wythenshaw, Manchester, for the past six weeks last night agreed to call in the conciliation service, Acas.

Journalists' plea to Maxwell

Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Leaders of 285 London-based journalists at Mirror Group Newspapers last night called on Mr Robert Maxwell, the group's publisher, to put in writing a pledge to suspend their dismissal notices pending further negotiations on his "survival plan".

The journalists are among the 6,000 MGN staff who were issued on Monday with notices which will come into force at the end of the month unless agreement can be reached on the loss of 2,000 jobs.

Mr Maxwell plans to transfer the printing of the titles to his British Newspaper Printing Corporation from December 1.

If no accord is reached, Mr Maxwell has threatened to stop publishing the *Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and the *Sunday People* until spring 1987 when BNPC's colour printing operation is scheduled to start.

Reign of terror claim against city Militants

Militant leaders of Liverpool City Council last night were accused of conducting a reign of terror against staff of the council (Philip Webster writes).

Sir Trevor Jones, Liverpool's Liberal leader, told a Westminster press conference that senior officers, many of whom were appointed by the Liberals when they were in power in the city and with whom they had worked closely for many years, now were scared to be seen talking to other than Labour councillors for fear of losing their jobs.

Sir Trevor's remarks came as he and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, launched an offensive against the council leadership by publishing a 66-page report, called "How Labour sacked a city".

But they are unlikely to show much enthusiasm if Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, asks them to go on banging the drum against the breakaway. If they are to take any part in the affair they will want some impression from the NUM president that he and his colleagues recognize the seriousness of the crisis, and more still, they are prepared to be conciliatory in any further talks that might take place.

And here a good deal, if not everything, hangs on the mood of the NUM executive. The importance of last month's 11-7 vote in favour of doing whatever needs to be done to lift the sequestration (and in which Mr Mick McGlothy, the vice president, joined other "left wingers" in overruling the advice of Mr Scargill) should not be underestimated.

At least some of the officials in left-wing coalfields such as South Wales and north Derbyshire, which played a key part in that vote, now believe that it may be time to seek ways, however reluctantly, with the breakaway rather than trying to crush it.

Suspects' low demand for advice

The police have not co-operated fully in telling suspects in custody of their right to see a duty solicitor, according to the findings of a pilot scheme, at five south London police stations, published by the Law Society yesterday.

Over the two weeks of the scheme, held in October, just over 13 per cent of those arrested and taken to police stations sought legal advice at some time while in custody.

There was "circumstantial evidence" that the procedures were not consistently followed. There was also "direct evidence" from the custody records that the police frequently did not inform the suspect directly of the availability of the duty solicitor.

Police solicitors join prosecution critics

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Metropolitan Police solicitors have joined the growing chorus of protest about pay and career prospects proposed for the Government's new crown prosecution service.

The poor levels of pay will not only fail to attract enough lawyers into the new service, due to start next year, they will cause and are causing prosecutors to leave the public sector, the solicitors say.

Their concern is expressed in a letter in the *Law Society's Gazette* from Mr R M Thorne, chairman of the Metropolitan Police branch of the First Division of Civil Servants.

"It is difficult to understand how offering less money to do a

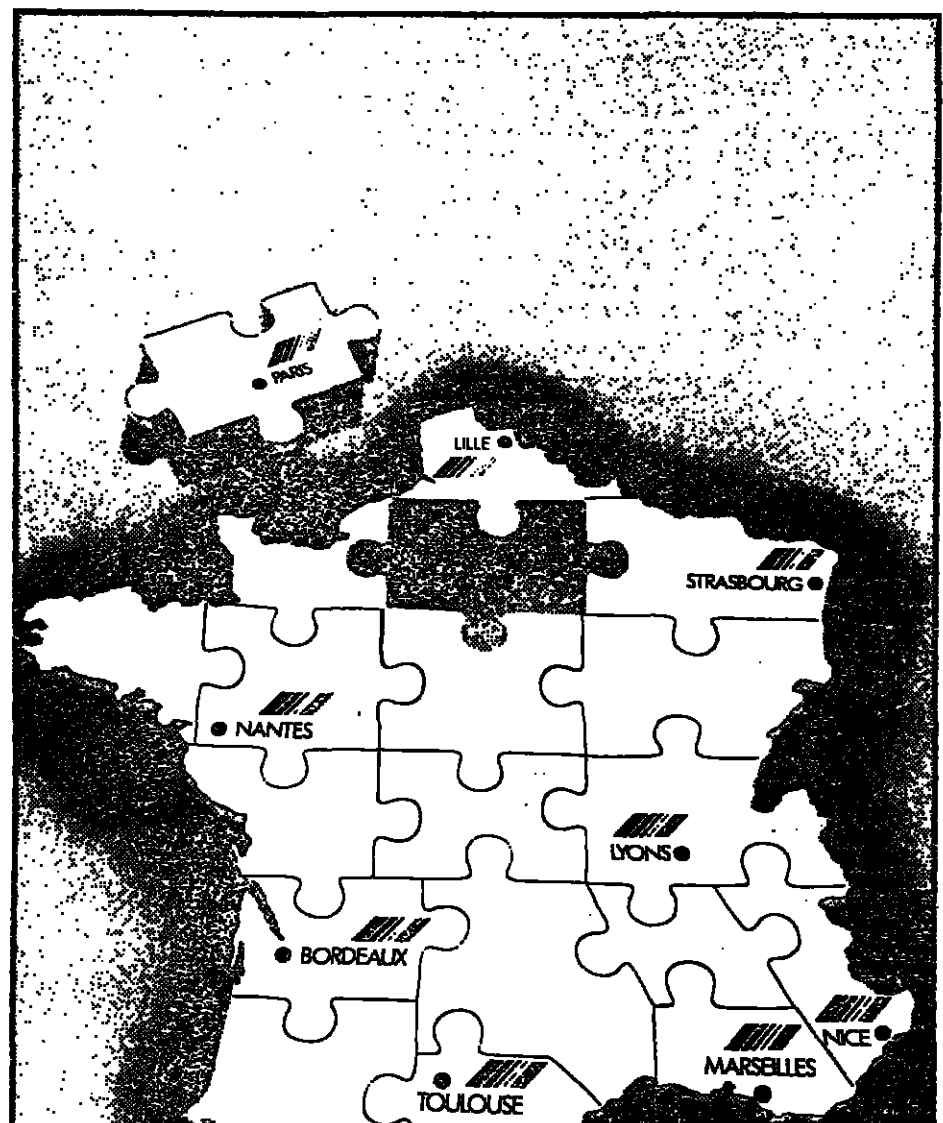
harder job with longer hours can be anything but detrimental to the prosecution service as a whole," he says.

Mr Thorne says it is unlikely that by October 1986 the Government will have succeeded in recruiting its target of 300 competent lawyers in the three crown prosecution areas of London, and of those who do join, many will be inexperienced, he says.

The Government conceived the new service under its "law and order" banner, but was "either strangling or deforming it at birth", while at the same time "striking hammer blows at the confidence of those in the existing service".

Diary, page 14

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AIR FRANCE

Honeyford 'can be suspended'

Bradford City Council argued in the Court of Appeal yesterday that it had an overriding legal power to continue the suspension of Mr Ray Honeyford, despite a vote by school governors that he should be reinstated as headmaster of Drummond Middle School, Bradford.

Mr John Melville Williams, QC, said the authority could not divest itself of the power to dismiss under the Education Act.

War pilgrimage

More than 200 veterans and war widows began an emotional pilgrimage yesterday to the battlefields and war graves of the "Forgotten Army" who fought the Far East campaign. The trip, the first of its kind since the end of World War Two, was arranged and sponsored by the Government after complaints that the Far East campaign was not being recognized in the same way as the European victory.

Mr King insisted that the constitutional guarantee of the

King tries to calm Unionist fears

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, sought yesterday to calm Unionist fears about the Anglo-Irish negotiations which were aimed at finding an administrative solution to the problems that reflected both communities.

In the clearest hint yet that the year of talks between London and Dublin will reach a successful conclusion, he told a meeting of local businessmen in east Belfast: "We have a challenging time ahead. I believe that if men of goodwill work together, we can take the province forward."

Mr King criticized the "wild rumours" which were spread, and political leaders who resurrected "old phobias and fears", whenever discussions took place with the Dublin government.

Mr King insisted that the constitutional guarantee of the

province's position in the United Kingdom remained and that sovereignty and responsibility would stay with Westminster.

● All 18 Unionist-controlled councils in Northern Ireland are expected to have suspended meetings for a month by the end of this week in protest at the presence of Provisional Sinn Féin members.

The Unionist group on Belfast City Council voted yesterday to become the seveneenth council to join the protest, in spite of misgivings about the strategy within the Official Unionist Party.

● A dispute over single-union negotiating rights has delayed the move by Shorts, the Belfast Aerospace company, of about 200 jobs into the most depressed mainly Roman Catholic areas of west Belfast.

TUC in sombre mood for NUM talks

By Donald Macintyre Labour Editor

Today's meeting between the TUC and the full NUM executive will be the first since the dark days of February when Mr Norman Willis, the general secretary, was launching his last and finally abortive attempts to secure a settlement of the coal strike. It will also be the latest milestone in the painful process of reassessment now taking place among many of the NUM executive's 26 members.

The principal purpose of the meeting is to discuss what, if any role the TUC has to play in solving the apparently intractable problem of the defection by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. And the seriousness of that problem from the NUM's point of view was pointed up by the decisive vote announced yesterday - 75-6 per cent - by the miners in Daw Hill in the heart of the coal-rich Warwickshire coalfield, in favour of joining the breakaway union.

The TUC's inner cabinet is likely to approach today's meeting in a cautious and sombre frame of mind. A

lengthy document before it members paints a stark picture of the realities now confronting the NUM, pointing out the rate of pit closure both underway and expected in a way that implicitly underlines the scale of the NUM's defeat, the problems created by the UDM's defection and its all-too-apparent capacity to survive as a breakaway; the financial pressures created by both sequestration, from which the NUM is now hoping to escape on November 4, and the pressures imposed by the bargaining stance of the National Coal Board, which on Friday insisted that the NUM sign a commitment to the board's strategy of increasing productivity through incentives, if it is to expect any increase at all.

The last is in fact, the subject of a special meeting of the union's executive which will follow the talks at Congress House. And that, in its own way, could be as significant as the discussions on the UDM, because the two issues are inextricably interlinked.

A number of union officials in centre left coalfields believe

that the alternative to meeting the NCB's stringent terms would be to hand the UDM just the recruiting weapon it most needs. If Nottinghamshire miners scheduled to ballot on their pay offer at the end of this week, are seen to have a 6 to 7 per cent increase in the pay packets at a time when the NUM has still to receive an offer at all, then that could spell a disaster for the national union in its efforts to contain the break away.

According to these strategists, who believe they have a good chance of carrying the day today, the union should bypass the conference commitment against incentive schemes by putting out to branches the offer they believe would follow agreement to increase the NUM's terms.

The issue of the breakaway itself is more complex. Most if not all, members of the TUC's inner cabinet are genuine in their condemnation of the Nottinghamshire miners for breaking away rather than seeking to fight from within. And there is no question for the foreseeable future of its reversing its undertaking not to admit the UDM if it applies for affiliation.

But they are unlikely to show much enthusiasm if Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, asks them to go on banging the drum against the breakaway. If they are to take any part in the affair they will want some impression from the NUM president that he and his colleagues recognize the seriousness of the crisis, and more still, they are prepared to be conciliatory in any further talks that might take place.

And here a good deal, if not everything, hangs on the mood of the NUM executive. The importance of last month's 11-7 vote in favour of doing whatever needs to be done to lift the sequestration (and in which Mr Mick McGlothy, the vice president, joined other "left wingers" in overruling the advice of Mr Scargill) should not be underestimated.

At least some of the officials in left-wing coalfields such as South Wales and north Derbyshire, which played a key part in that vote, now believe that it may be time to seek ways, however reluctantly, with the breakaway rather than trying to crush it.

Murder of prostitute may be linked to M4 abduction and rape

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the shooting of a prostitute by a motorist in Park Lane were yesterday comparing details of the murder with the abduction of a woman on the M4 last weekend and her rape in London.

The prostitute, aged about 23, was killed with a single blast of a shotgun as she and another woman tried to escape from a car in Park Lane late on Monday night. The women became suspicious after they were picked up by a man who locked all the doors of his car before producing handcuffs and the gun.

The shooting has some similarities with the abduction of a woman aged 40 which began on the M4 in Wiltshire on Saturday night and ended in south London on Sunday morning. In both incidents handcuffs were produced by a man in his twenties.

The rapist forced his victim, a widow and an academic, into a light-coloured Audi, handcuffed her and drove her to London. The driver who picked up the prostitutes was driving a light-coloured four-door saloon which could have been an Audi.

Det Chief Supt Michael Purchase, in charge of the murder inquiry, said: "It would be ridiculous not to think there is a possibility the incidents are linked." He added that no direct evidence had yet appeared.

The killer, he said, had been "ruthless, quite cold-blooded". His officers were waiting to interview the second prostitute in greater depth.

The two women were picked up by the driver as they left the Grosvenor House hotel about half way down Park Lane. They had been visiting hotels looking for customers and the man is thought to have made them an offer.

The car moved off south down Park Lane and then

Police advice to women drivers

Wiltshire police yesterday gave this advice to women drivers:

● Always lock your vehicle after getting into it.

● Before getting into the vehicle, look into the car to ensure that no one has got in before you and is hiding or lying in wait, even if the doors have been locked.

● Have the key to the door ready before you approach your car, so that you are not lingering about in deserted car parks.

● If a stranger offers to help, do not get out of your car under any circumstances. Ask the stranger to call for assistance for you. Stay in the vehicle and speak only by opening the window.

● If you see someone stranded on the side of the motorway, do not be tempted to stop to offer help. Instead go on to the nearest motorway telephone and call for help.

● If you suspect you are being followed, don't take avoiding action but instead drive to the nearest motorway service station or police station and ask for assistance.

Some of the advice is particularly applicable to women using supermarket car parks. In two recent unsolved rapes, women have been attacked after a man has either got into their car ahead of them or has surprised them as they were opening the car door.

the front passenger seat to put the handcuffs on.

She refused and both women grew alarmed. The second woman, in the rear of the car, kicked out a rear nearside window and hung out of the car screaming and waving her arms.

Mr Purchase said the driver managed to pull her back in. The woman in the front seat had damaged the windscreen with the heel of her shoe. The car had now slowed down and the driver shot the woman at close range as he drove.

He took the car left round Marble Arch, drove into the road at the north end of Hyde Park, called North Carriage Drive, and stopped to push the dying woman out. The woman in the back managed to get out of the car as well.

It then drove off west into Hyde Park and disappeared as bystanders and other drivers went to the aid of the two women.

Mr Purchase said there was no motive for the shooting. He said: "It is a ruthless man who pulls the trigger on a sawn-off shot gun at point blank range."

He said he would examine details of the M4 rape case. Officers involved in the rape inquiry were yesterday examining a site in south London where they believe the rape took place.

On Monday they thought the site was near a public house called the Joiners Arms in Hackney, east London.

Miss Gigi Turner of the English Collective for Prostitutes, said that the collective had been receiving telephone calls from anxious prostitutes.

"The main reactions have been shock and anger," Miss Turner said. "We're worried that police are going to start applying more pressure to girls working in the area. We've always been worried that the new legislation on kerb crawling doesn't allow us to size up customers. We said that this could lead to murder."

Skulls are thought to be from a gangland feud

A two human skulls, thrown at a police station door, are the remains of two missing East End "hard men", detectives believe.

James "Jimmy the Wad" Waddington and David Elmore disappeared from a Greek restaurant in Barking, Essex, 21 months ago. Police believe they were the victims of a Valentine's Day gangland killing. An extensive search of London's East End and Essex countryside failed to disclose any evidence.

The decomposing skulls, with lower jaws missing, were thrown at the entrance of Harold Hill police station, Goswatts Drive, near Romford, in the early hours of Saturday.

Ex-owner 'sabotaged' Marques sister ship

The former owner of the sailing ship, Marques, sabotaged her sister ship, the Inca, while they were berthed in Plymouth, Devon, it was claimed at the public inquiry there yesterday.

Mr Robin Cecil-Wright was seen jamming the engines with spanners and screwdrivers and later admitted trying to stop the ships leaving Plymouth.

Mr Cecil-Wright, aged 45 of Wadebridge, Cornwall, was in dispute with his partner Mr Litchfield, of Bexley, Kent, over the ownership of the Marques and the Inca. He sabotaged the Inca in 1983 to keep the ships in

Wholesale price holidays launched

Thomas Cook yesterday launched summer holidays at wholesale prices, but only through the company's outlets. Previously 50 per cent of Thomas Cook holidays were sold through other travel agents.

The chairman of Thomas Cook, Mr Bernard Norman, said the company would offer price reductions of up to 20 per cent on its summer holidays offered by the biggest tour operators, such as Thomson, Intasun, Cosmos and Horizon, which account for 85 per cent of its total holiday sales.

Mr Norman said the company aimed for a 70 per cent increase in sales next year.

Lunn Poly, Britain's second biggest travel agent, said its 200 travel shops would not be affected by the loss of Thomas Cook holidays.

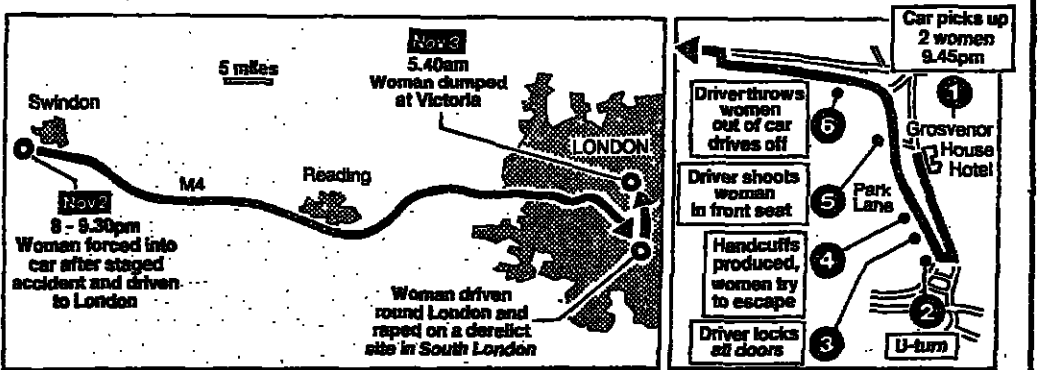
Thomas Cook, which hopes to increase its shops to 500 by this time next year, is also offering a number of free or heavily-reduced holidays for children in many resorts.

A London-based travel company, Slade Travel Leisure, is to undercut Virgin Atlantic's £99 one-way standby fare to New York by £5 each way, with a return fare of £188.

Mr John Slade said that more than 5,000 seats would be offered, bookable two weeks in advance and available from today.

Prison bid fails

Gary Kemp, a pop star of the Spandau Ballet group, failed in his High Court attempt yesterday to get a prison sentence for the heads of the record company he is in dispute with. He claimed that the heads of the company, Chrysalis, were in contempt of a court order granted to him on Friday, forbidding them to advertise or sell a "greatest hits" album.



Chauffeur 'stole my dresses to wear'

Mrs Soraya Khashoggi denied yesterday that she was intimate with her chauffeur, Anthony Howard, Mrs Khashoggi, aged 44, told Winchester Crown Court: "That is rubbish. Mr Howard is a homosexual. I don't sleep with my chauffeurs, anyway."

Mr Howard, aged 39, is accused of stealing from his employer 400 items of property worth £100,000. He denies 20 specimen charges of theft, one of obtaining property by deception and one of using a false instrument, a cheque.

He told her he was a homosexual living with a man called Muhammad el-Toujjeni, Mrs Khashoggi said. "I met them as friends; there is nothing wrong with them being homosexual," she added.

Mummified baby's body 40 years old

The mummified body of a baby born more than 40 years ago was found in a suitcase when the sisters of a spinstress were sorting out her possessions after her death. Dr Rufus Crompton, a pathologist, told a Battersea inquest yesterday that the baby was either stillborn or survived only two or three days.

He said he could not ascertain its sex or the cause of death and added that the baby had been born between 40 and 70 years ago.

Mrs Marjorie Heale, made the discovery after her sister, Miss Netta Verga, died on October 2. She was searching through her belongings at her flat in Du Cane Court, Balham High Road, Balham, on October 14 when she found a locked cupboard full of suitcases and bags. In a brown paper parcel tied with string she found the body.

An open verdict was returned.

Aspinall's zoo pays £38,000

A £38,000 pay-out was agreed in the High Court yesterday for damages after the death of Mr Brian Stocks, the head keeper, mauled by a tiger at Mr John Aspinall's private zoo, Howlets, five years ago.

Mr Stocks, aged 29, died in August 1980 after being mauled by the Siberian tiger, Zoya. The money is to go to his estate for the benefit of his son, Lee Dyke, aged 15.

The damages are to be paid by Howlets and Port Lymington Estates Ltd, who run the zoo at Bekebourne, Kent, and admitted liability.

Mr Aspinall allowed Zoya to live after the attack because he said he and Mr Stocks had made a pact that if either were killed by an animal they would not want it destroyed. But within a month another keeper, Mr Bob Wilson, aged 28 was killed by the same tiger. Mr Aspinall then shot her himself.

Doctor died from own injection

An Indian doctor planned to take his own life after what appeared to be a ritual revenge attempt against his estranged wife and her lover, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Narendra Tyagi, aged 37, who worked as a locum anaesthetist, injected himself with a deadly mixture of drugs moments after police found him trying to break into the house where his wife, Christine, lived with her boyfriend, Dr Mark Vorster, a South African.

The inquest jury in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was told Dr Tyagi, of Ash Close, Little Stoke, Bristol, was clinically dead within minutes of the injection.

The incident happened on September 20, a few weeks after English-born Mrs Tyagi, aged 30, left the couple's home.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide.

Four policemen on plot charge

Four policemen appeared in court yesterday accused of plotting to accuse falsely two men of being drunk and disorderly.

They appeared on the summonses at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London and were remanded on unconditional bail until December 3.

10 hurt in police car collision

Ten people were injured when a police car answering an emergency call was in collision with a mini-bus carrying psychiatric patients on the A3 at Liss in Hampshire.

Two bus passengers and the driver of the police car were taken to a Portsmouth hospital with serious injuries.

Hi-fi campaign to oust Japanese

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Lord Gowrie, former Minister for the Arts, yesterday launched an initiative by the British hi-fi industry to win back from the Japanese part of its home market.

The British Audio Dealers Association and the manufacturers' organization, the Federation of British Audio, of which Lord Gowrie, a hi-fi enthusiast, has become president, have joined in a £250,000 campaign. Britain's audio equipment makers hold less than 20 per

Speech made by His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka at the Executive Sessions of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held on 17th October 1985.

Sri Lanka is a multi party Democracy that has enjoyed universal adult franchise for over half a century. There exists in Sri Lanka a social and political system that guarantees fundamental freedoms to all persons, including the freedom of worship, speech, publication, association and movement. All these fundamental rights are guaranteed in the Constitution and are justiciable by the Courts. The Judiciary is free and independent.

Recently, the country has been threatened by a terrorist problem, with a small group of Tamil militants carrying on a ruthless campaign of violence and terror with a view to setting up a separate state in northern Sri Lanka, which is 21 miles away from South India.

This speech was delivered by the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene at the Commonwealth Heads of State Conference recently held at Nassau, Bahamas from 18th to 22nd October, 1985.

On the occasion of the Conference, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was present at Bahamas as the Head of the Commonwealth.

All 49 countries of the Commonwealth participated at the Conference, most of them at the level of Heads of State or Prime Ministers. Here the President of Sri Lanka, a committed democrat and an ardent follower and admirer of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence in political and human affairs, sets out the country's position in relation to the attempts to destabilize the democratic processes in Sri Lanka by terrorism and armed action which have become a major problem in Sri Lanka in the last few years.

The speeches of the distinguished representative of Cyprus and Granada showed us the dangers some countries are facing. It was at the New Delhi conference that the question of Cyprus was raised for the first time and I hope that the question raised by the distinguished representative of Granada will also be resolved satisfactorily before our next meeting. Similar ideas were expressed by the distinguished representative of India and the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. We see in their speeches the same theme of terrorism ending in violence and riots. The distinguished representative of Singapore has in the same way expressed an academic view of these problems.

Let me first thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your Government and people for the generous hospitality we have enjoyed during our stay here.

Exactly 500 years ago Christopher Columbus and his Spanish conquistadors if I may so call his sailors, invaded these islands, they landed at San Salvador, exterminated the native Indians and changed the course of history of many nations. If I lived today we would call him an international terrorist but today he is recognised as a great leader.

Today the leaders of 49 nations living in all the Continents of the World meet in Peace and amity to discuss some of the ills that the World suffers from and to seek solutions to them.

While we talk of these problems we must know that other, so that we may be the better judge of the commonsense of us.

For example, countrymen of some of the leaders present here have made such atrocious statements about my country and its government that I consider it my first task to put the record straight before I proceed further.

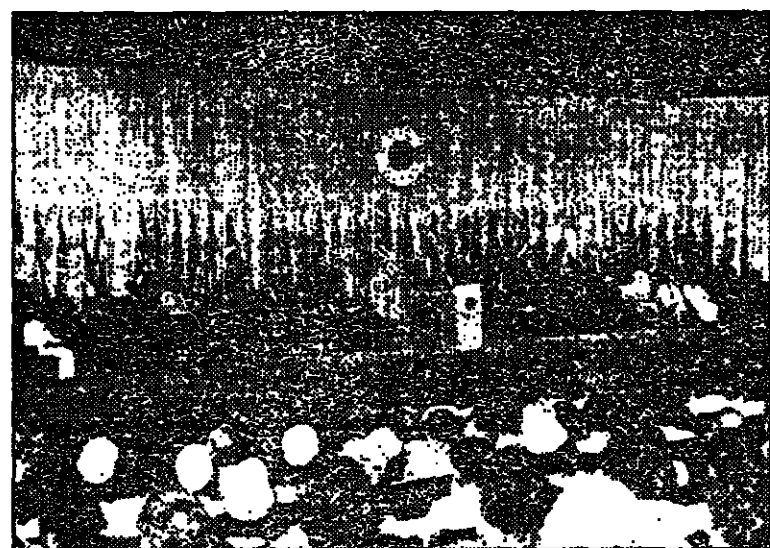
For example one has said that Sri Lanka should be classed with South Africa because of the recent apartheid policy it is following. The media has helped to create these very impressions and I feel that at least among my friends the Heads of Governments of the Commonwealth there should be no doubt about the events that occur in Sri Lanka today and the policies of its Government.

I have myself attended innumerable

At the 1977 General Election held by the Government of the day, now in Opposition, my Party in opposition was elected to office in 1978. We now have 143 out of a total of 168 members. An Islandwide Referendum extended our term of office for another six years from 1983-1989.

The new Constitution of 1978 introduced by my Government made the Presidency elected and executive, as President Head of the State and Government, combining the British and American systems of Government and following closely the French model. At a Presidential election held in November 1982 I was elected for 6 years by a majority of 903,373.

This advertisement was placed by the Friends of Sri Lanka c/o P.O. Box 2830 G, The Times



Telegu, British, Hanover and Windsor, and two Presidents, one selected in 1972 and myself, elected in 1977 and 1982, the 1982 election was held against the Government. The use of Emergency Powers have to be passed by Parliament every month, after debate. After three months a two-third majority is required to do so.

It is with a knowledge of these aspects of our political and constitutional life that I wish to inform my colleagues of the unfortunate events of violence that have plagued our national life in the Northern and Eastern parts of our Island, engineered by Tamil terrorists, particularly since 1980.

Sri Lanka's population contains four major ethnic groups, viz:

Sinhalese - 74% (11,000,000)
Sri Lanka Tamils - 12.6% (1,870,000)
Muslims - 7.4% (1,200,000)
Indian Tamils - 5.6% (825,000)
Burghers - 0.26% (38,236)
in a population of 14,900,000 (1981 Census data).

The majority of the Sinhalese are Buddhists, the majority of the two Tamil groups are Hindus and the Muslims are followers of Islam. The Christians belong to all communities.

The voting, district by district, in the 1977 General Election for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) the moderate group that campaigned for a separate state of Eelam in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, was as follows:

Jaffna District - 71.81%
Mannar District - 51.44%
Vavuniya District - 58.32%
Mullativu District - 52.16%

This advertisement was placed by the Friends of Sri Lanka c/o P.O. Box 2830 G, The Times

(Northern Province)
Trincomalee District - 27.18%
Batticaloa District - 32.14%
Ampara District - 20.25%
(Eastern Province)

In the seven other provinces they did not contest.

The right of each community to use its own language, practice its own culture and customs is recognised. The Government guarantees these rights to them throughout the Island, however small their numbers may be. We recognise the whole of Sri Lanka as the homeland of every individual member of each community.

We have agreed that recruitment to the State services and entrance to the Universities will reflect the ethnic proportion of the Island. The Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Inspector-General of Police till a few months ago several Ambassadors and important officials are Tamils.

The Constitution enacts that the Official Language is Sinhala, and the National Language, Tamil. Every effort is made to teach English and make it the link language.

Constitutional Changes
The Government has agreed on the principles and forms of participatory Democracy from the Village, Urban and District levels, to Provincial Councils within a Province. They will all be elected by the People.

The Chief Executive enjoying the support of the majority of members in a District and/or Provincial Councils will be vested with executive powers by the President and appointed by him to fulfil the functions of his Council.

Only a fraction of the 1.36 million Tamils who live in the Northern and Eastern Provinces supported the idea of a separate State in the 1977 election. The entirety of those who live outside viz. 500,000 and the entirety viz. 2 million of the other communities including 800,000 Indian Tamils too opposed it.

This then is the factual position. Terrorism reared its ugly head first in 1976, with the murder of the Tamil Mayor of Jaffna, who was also a Member of Parliament and of the then ruling Government Party. Since then hundreds of innocent civilians, members of the Security Services, men, women and children have been killed by the terrorists, including two ex-Members of Parliament of the moderate group and several members of my own Party. The Security services in defence and retaliation have also killed several. It is a massacre without a purpose and with no hope of success.

The classic pattern is repeated in my country. They openly say they wish to create a Marxist State in the whole of Sri Lanka and not only a separation of the Island. Their international lobby is wide and effective. The umbrella of the grievances of the Tamil minority, and the unfortunate riots of 1983, - when in Colombo and some cities in the South, the Sinhalese civilians were misled into harming Tamil lives and property, in retaliation for the deaths of 13 Sinhala soldiers in the North by a terrorist bomb - help them to function as a legitimate racial group seeking to redress grievances. The Government is shown as the aggressor or suppressor. Money is collected, arms are purchased, and terrorists are trained to disrupt the smooth functioning of one of the few democracies among the developing nations, a founder member both of the new Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement.

It is a shame that the help that should come to us to maintain the high principles of these two Movements are denied, and that instead there is a vilification of our purposes and behaviour by Politicians and the Press. I hope that it may be possible to bring Peace once again to the troubled North and East of our Motherland, and that the leaders of the terrorist groups living and operating outside our shores will cease to function.

I believe in the democratic principles of non-violence, and the principles proclaimed by Gautama the Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi. I hope that the great ideals they stood for can be proclaimed to the world and remain the principle guiding the Members of the Commonwealth.

Bill on new public order powers for police will ensure session is lively

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The strengthening of public order laws, the privatization of British Gas, and reform of the social security system will be included in the Government's programme for the new session of Parliament to be outlined in the Queen's Speech today.

The Public Order Bill, which will rationalize several antiquated laws and give the police new powers, promises to be controversial enough to ensure a lively session, although some ministers were hoping for a quieter life than in the past two years.

The Home Office looks likely to carry the heaviest load. As well as the Public Order Bill, which will create an offence of disorderly conduct, there will be Bills to relax restrictions on shop hours, and to strengthen control over experimentation on animals.

A drugs Bill will create a new offence of trafficking. There would be penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment, and traffickers would be liable to forfeit assets which they could not prove to be legitimate.

The British Gas Bill is likely to be published early. Other privatization measures involve the sale of the British Airways

Authority and to allow private commercial contractors to manage Royal naval dockyards.

Mr Norman Fowler and his Department of Health and Social Security are likely to have their hands full preparing a White Paper revising the plans for reforming social security, and modifying the initial plan to dismantle the state earnings related pension scheme. A complex Bill will follow in the new year.

The Department of Trade and Industry is to promote a Bill to provide a new system of regulation for the marketing of securities and the protection of investors.

The Treasury will be in charge of the Bill to allow building societies to broaden operations.

The Department of Education is preparing a Bill of which the main purpose is to strengthen the role of parent governors in state schools. There will also be powers to allow the appraisal of teachers' performance, to which Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State, is committed.

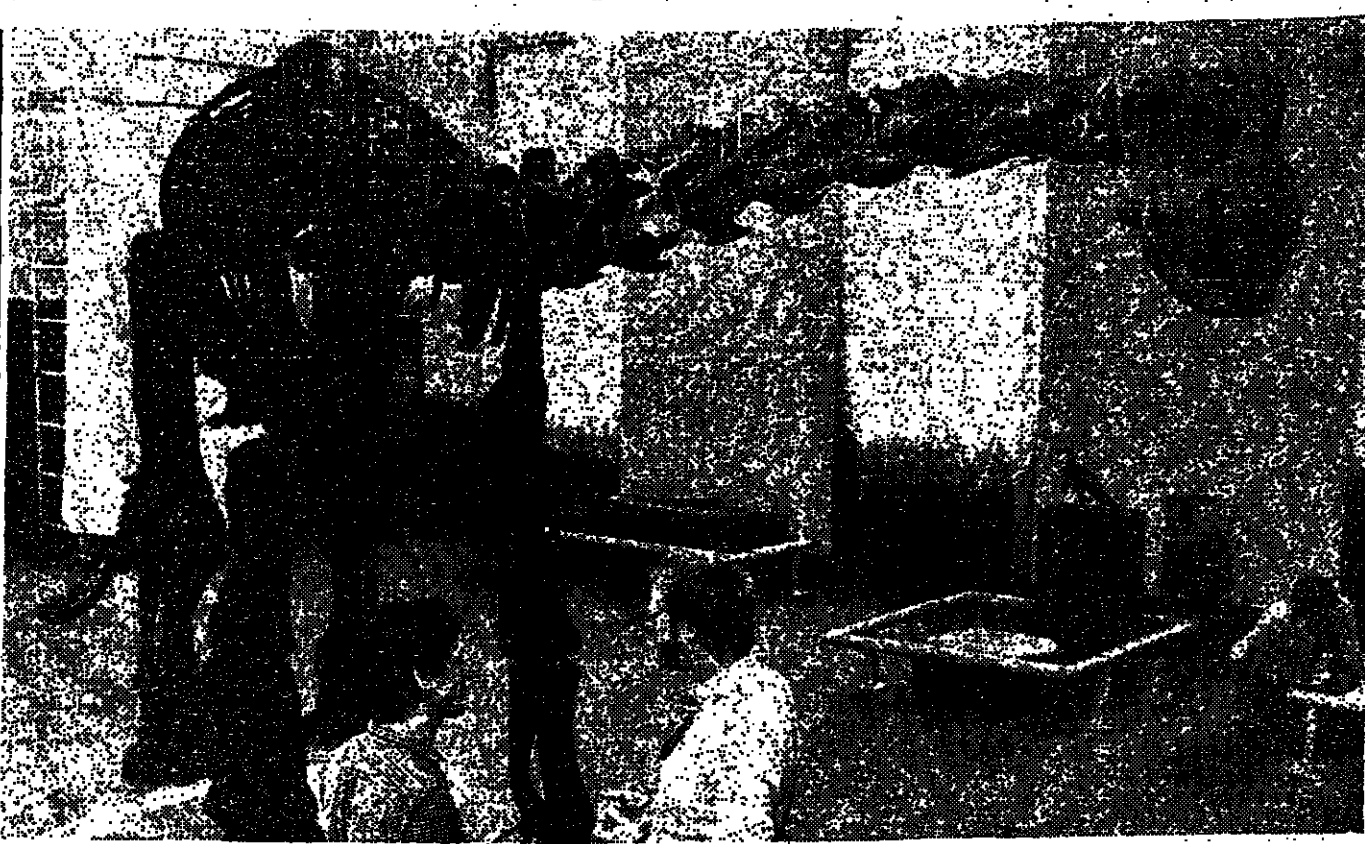
One of the more contentious measures, in which Conservative anti-Marketters will join

with Labour MPs, will be the Bill to ratify the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community next year.

There will be a Scottish Office Bill to improve opportunities for home ownership, and another to improve the Scottish legal aid scheme. There will also be a Bill to be published late in the session, designed to encourage local authorities to let tenants set up management associations, with budget and revenue raising powers.

The Department of the Environment is planning a Bill to restrict expenditure by local authorities on political advertising. It has been inspired by the Greater London Council, which, with the other metropolitan county councils, is to expire in the spring.

Other Bills planned are: Requirement that the fat content of foods be printed on labels, to simplify planning regulations; reform wages councils; allow the building of long-delayed Okehampton bypass in Devon and provide for a new contract between the National Health Service and pharmacists.



The Rutland ceteosaurus, looming above onlookers yesterday at the Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester, where it is to be the principal exhibit in "The Dinosaur", which opens on Saturday. The creature, from 175 million years ago, weighed nine tons (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Woman wins damages for Nilsen story

Miss Janet Leaman, a senior Civil Servant, won "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper allegation that she was having an affair with Dennis Nilsen, a mass murderer.

Nilsen was a junior Civil Servant at the Kentish Town Jobcentre managed by Miss Leaman.

Mr Andrew Pugh, her counsel, told Mr Justice Mann that after Nilsen had been arrested and charged with the murders of several young men, "the gruesome circumstances of these revolting murders attracted considerable attention in the Press".

As his senior officer, Miss Leaman was approached and offered a substantial financial inducement to disclose some letters Nilsen had sent her and to talk about him. She scrupulously observed instructions from her senior to say nothing.

But an article appeared in the *News of the World* in Nov 1983. "The article conveyed the unmistakable impression that there had been a love affair between Miss Leaman and Nilsen," Mr Pugh said.

She was "horrified and profoundly distressed" by the article which attributed statements to her which she never made.

The newspaper's publishers, News Group Newspapers Ltd, Mr Derek Jameson, the former editor and journalist Mr Mike Parker, now acknowledged there was no truth whatsoever in these allegations, and agreed to pay the undisclosed damages and all legal costs.

Mr Charles Gray, QC, for the defendants, said they fully accepted that there was no improper relationship with Nilsen and that Miss Leaman's conduct as manager of the Jobcentre was entirely correct. They offered their apologies.

Race complaint against paper is rejected

The Press Council has rejected a complaint that *The Sun* mentioned that a defendant in a court report was Irish when it was not relevant to the issue.

Mr Patrick Reynolds, of Marlborough Road, Wood Green, north London, complained that the description of the man was in breach of the council's ruling, and was racist.

The council's adjudication was: "The description of the defendant in this case as Irish was not relevant to his offence or trial but neither was it pejorative or prejudicial."

The complaint against *The Sun* is therefore rejected.

Decision on woman reserved

An industrial tribunal yesterday reserved its decision on the case of a woman, aged 34, who was told she was "too old" for the job of "trainee ambassador".

Miss Violet Leavers, married with three children, applied for the job. But she was told the age limit was 32.

Miss Leavers, of Whellock Road, Chiswick, west London, told the Chiswick tribunal that the Civil Service Commission sexually discriminated against her by not considering that women interrupted their careers for children.

The move by the police committee of the Labour-controlled Derbyshire County Council came after the intervention of Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, who invoked, for the first time, powers under section 29 of the Police Act, 1964, requiring the authority to retire its chief constable "in the interests of efficiency".

Mr Parrish, aged 54, was appointed chief constable in 1980. He was suspended from his £30,000-a-year post in June 1984 but has been unable to appear before an independent tribunal, set up to investigate the allegations, because of a psychiatric condition.

On retirement he is entitled to a pension of £20,290 a year, or the option of a £70,000 lump

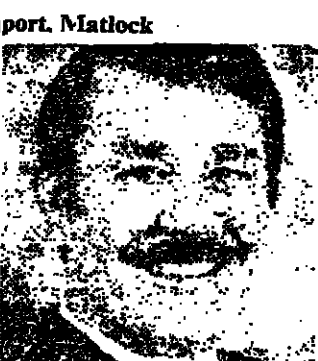
sum with a reduced pension of £15,280.

Yesterday's unanimous decision by the committee may not be the end of the affair. Although the tribunal, which had fixed a hearing for March 10 next year, is expected to dissolve itself formally, there may be an investigation by the district auditor in the new year.

Council officials said yesterday that they would have the power to surcharge Mr Parrish if he found any of the allegations to be proved.

Mr Harry Lowe, chairman of the police committee, said after the meeting that independent solicitors to the tribunal had drawn up ten charges against the chief constable. Members of the committee received details for the first time yesterday but were prevented from making the charges public under regulations covering tribunal procedures.

Mr David Bookbinder, leader of the book, said that he believed the charges should be made public and would be when



Mr Alfred Parrish, a policeman for 31 years.

the district auditor begins an investigation.

The allegations against Mr Parrish involve claims that he spent £28,000 without permission on equipping his private office, including a desk costing £1,413, two armchairs worth £1,178, and a cupboard containing a refrigerator costing £1,166.

Mr Parrish, a policeman for 31 years, has maintained

throughout that he had a full answer to the charges. He maintains that he was the victim of a left-wing plot but the committee said yesterday that it had received no explanation.

The post of chief constable is to be advertised immediately at a salary of £32,751, but the new holder will operate under revised conditions of service.

Among these are that the county treasurer is responsible for spending matters and has the right to question officers.

They also lay down strict guidelines on the private use of an official car. It is not to be used for normal journeys between home and headquarters unless the mileage is reimbursed.

Mr Arthur Willis, a solicitor, said last night that the decision was in line with the wishes of Mr Parrish. "He does not regard it as a finding against him."

Mr Parrish still maintained his innocence and, health permitting, would answer any questions in an investigation by the district auditor.

Warning expected on BBC advertising

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Peacock committee's research into the effects of advertising on the BBC is expected to say that the move would reduce advertising spending on their media including newspapers and commercial radio.

A report commissioned by the committee from National Economic Research Associates believes that the price of advertising would fall if the BBC were to compete with ITV for commercials, but the decrease might be outweighed by rising demand for advertising fed by more consumer spending and a profitable economy.

The associates findings are part of a number of research projects commissioned by the Peacock committee as part of its task to investigate the funding of the BBC and report by next summer. They were asked to look at the effects BBC commercials would have on other media.

They believe that if the BBC took a 4 per cent increase in commercials each year related

to its audiences, ITV revenues would not be affected. (The five largest ITV companies would remain in profit without large increases in BBC commercials, although the smaller stations would face cuts.)

The National Federation of Consumer Groups, in evidence to the committee, said yesterday that it saw no benefits to the consumer in advertising on the BBC.

It said: "Controversial, unusual or minority interest programmes would become scarcer and the general level of television will gravitate to the lowest common denominator."

'Desert Island Discs' to return

Desert Island Discs, the BBC's longest-running entertainment programme, returns in January, eight months after the death of its creator Roy Plomley.

The new presenter has yet to be selected.

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Demolition ball to finish tower block

A crane with a 150-ft jib and a one-ton ball and chain is to move in today to start work on the remaining half of Northward Point tower block in Hackney, east London, after its demolition went wrong on Sunday.

Twelve of the 21 stories remained standing after the demolition contractors attempted to fell the tower with explosives. The 30 people from homes near by who had been moved into temporary accommodation as a safety precaution are expected to stay there for about two weeks until the area is safe.

The 17-year-old block and six others on the Trowbridge estate were condemned after they started crumbling at an alarming rate.

First operation on boy's hands

A boy aged six from Sierra Leone whose hands were mutilated by his mother was "comfortable" in Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, yesterday after undergoing a first operation to restore their use.

Ghassay Khan's mother poured petrol over his hands and set them alight because he stole meat. He was flown to Britain after a surgeon in Crewe, Mr Bernard Tate, saw him while on holiday.

University sells Pacific art

A collection of 3,000 Pacific folk art treasures is to leave Britain for Japan because no British institution wishes to buy it, it was announced yesterday.

Newcastle University has decided to sell the Victorian collection for £600,000 to the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka. The items, ranging from canoes, masks and weapons to small shells, were gathered in the Western Pacific in the late nineteenth century.

Killer of PC to appeal

Colin Richards, aged 35, who was jailed for life last July, after being found guilty of murdering Police Constable Brian Bishop, is to appeal against his conviction.

PC Bishop, aged 37, was shot in the head with a sawn-off shotgun at Frinton in August 1984.

Jet wreckage

The Canadian coastguard vessel, John Cabot, arrived back in Cork yesterday with more wreckage from the Air India jumbo jet, which crashed in the Atlantic last June, killing all 329 people on board. The ship is expected to return to the scene late this week.

Discrimination case lost

Professor Angela Bowey, who took the Equal Opportunities Commission to an industrial tribunal in Glasgow for alleged sexual discrimination, has lost her case, it was announced yesterday.

Miss Bowey, aged 44, took the action after being refused the job of chief executive of the commission. She holds the chair of business studies at Glasgow University.

She was a Scottish commissioner with the Commission and a member of the Scottish Economic Council and the Police Advisory Board.

Miss Bowey claimed that she had been dropped from the final selection list to make sure the job went to a man.

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Editor of Cape paper may be prosecuted for quoting Tambo

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The editor of the *Cape Times* in South Africa is under investigation for breach of the law in publishing an interview with Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

Mr Tambo, who lives in exile in Zambia and London, is a "banned" person and it is an offence to quote him publicly.

A lieutenant of the security police called on Mr Anthony Heard in his office at the *Cape Times* at 10.30 am yesterday and told him he was suspected of violating section 56 (1)(P) of the Internal Security Act.

This prohibits the printing, publishing or dissemination without government permission of "any speech, utterance, writing or statement", or any extract therefrom, of a "banned" person. Anyone who ignores the ban is liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years. There is no option of a fine.

Mr Heard was informed that once the police investigation was complete the findings would be sent to the Attorney General, who would decide whether to prosecute. It is known that Mr Heard did not seek permission to publish and deliberately chose to test the public's right to be informed on what he considers to be a matter of great importance: the views of the ANC.

Mr Heard is expected to plead guilty if charged. The Government is in a somewhat awkward position since it has taken no action against a group of businessmen and leaders of the opposition Progressive Federal Party who recently visited Zambia for talks with

the ANC and later gave interviews on what they had discussed.

Later, students from the University of Stellenbosch, the cradle of Afrikaner intellectuals, were refused passports to travel to Zambia for talks with the ANC's youth league. Three members of a multiracial group of Dutch Reformed Church clergymen, who also want to meet the ANC, met the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday and agreed not to pursue their plans.

Mr Botha said the discussions were "frank and friendly", but it was made clear to the clergymen that the Government would not allow them to go to Lusaka.

The leader of the group is Dr Nico Smith, a maverick Afrikaner priest who gave up his distinguished post at the Stellenbosch theological seminary several years ago to become pastor of a church in Mamelodi, a black township outside Pretoria, where he lives alongside his flock.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Botha confirmed that his department had withdrawn the passport of Dr Allan Boesak, the Coloured clergyman, despite the decision on Monday of a magistrate in Malmesbury, near Cape Town, to relax his bail conditions, allowing him to travel abroad.

Mr Boesak was arrested on August 27 and faces various charges under the Internal Security Act, including having given his support to school and consumer boycotts and economic disinvestment by foreigners.

Huddleston urges tougher line on EEC sanctions

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Most Rev Trevor Huddleston, president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, yesterday delivered a memorandum to the Foreign Office urging the Government to take stricter action to ensure that the restrictive measures which the EEC and the Commonwealth recently decided to enact against South Africa were carried out.

The document claimed that earlier restrictions imposed by Britain, such as the arms embargo, had not always been strictly enforced.

It recommended a number of legal controls to enable the Government "to honour its international obligations".

For example, it urged the

Government to give real meaning to the Commonwealth decision to curb the import of kruggerands by introducing legal controls not only to ban their import into Britain but also in to territories administered by Britain, such as Hong Kong, Bermuda and Gibraltar.

It also called on the Government to extend the Commonwealth ban on the sale and export of computer equipment that could be used by the South African armed forces, so that it would cover all categories of computer for which export licences are required.

The memorandum pointed out that the South African police and military were capable of adapting civilian computers to their own purposes.

17 accused in Indian spy trial

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

India's biggest spy trial has opened in Delhi with 17 businessmen and civil servants being accused of passing secret government documents to France, East Germany and the Soviet Union.

The trial in the capital's main magistrate's court is being held in camera, in view of the apparent sensitivity of some of the exhibits, which include documents from the desks of the Prime Minister's principal secretary and the civil servant in charge of defence procurement.

The early stages of the trial will be concerned with framing the charges against the accused, and a statement of the length of several novels is being made by the prosecution.

The case, which came to be known as the Photocopy Spy Case because the documents, which mostly dealt with arms purchase tenders were surreptitiously removed and photocopied in a local Xerox-shop, has already had several casualties.

The French Ambassador and military attaché both left the country after the case came to light, and the Prime Minister's secretary, Dr P. C. Alexander, several of whose staff are among the accused, resigned his post and is India's High Commissioner in London.

The king-pin in the case is Mr Coomer Narain, the Delhi representative of a Bombay firm, who acted as an intermediary for a number of arms salesmen. It is fairly standard procedure in the sub-continent when bidding for a job by competitive tender to be able to find out what rival bidders are up to.

Drugs excuse fails

Jakarta, (Reuters) - A British tourist was jailed for eight years and fined \$500 (£350) for drug possession in spite of his excuse that his doctor told him to take the drug to soothe his nerves, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday.

Philip Lee Atkins, a regular visitor to Bali, was found guilty of possessing 60g of hashish.

Atkins a jeweller aged 34, told the court his Australian doctor had advised him to use drugs because his work made him tense.

Jakarta has been cracking down on drug abuse on Bali to try to rid the island of its image as a drug-taking haven for young Westerners.



Mexican envoy was coshed and shot

Moscow (Reuters) - A Mexican diplomat found dead in his Moscow flat last week was coshed and then shot in the head, the Mexican Embassy said yesterday.

A statement said Dr Manuel Portilla Quevedo, a counsellor, was killed on October 30 and that his body was found by Embassy staff the next day along with that of his Mexican maid, Señora Maria del Carmen Cruz. She has been severely

beaten and shot twice in the head, it said.

Fellow diplomats had gone to the flat to check after he failed to report to work the previous day and did not answer the telephone or doorbell.

Dr Portilla, like all foreigners working in Moscow, lived in a special compound guarded by militia. Ordinary Russians cannot normally enter these complexes.

Dr Portilla, aged 43, had worked for four years at the Embassy, specializing in Soviet internal affairs.

The last reported violent death of a foreigner assigned on business to the Soviet Union was in 1933, when Denis Skinner, a British banker, fell to his death from his apartment.

The authorities declared the death a suicide, but a British coroner's court returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Miami vote for mayor tests power of Cubans

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Millions of Americans voted yesterday in state and city elections. In general, it seemed they were likely to vote for more of the same, expressing satisfaction with incumbent governors and mayors.

Tipped for easy re-election as mayors were Mr Ed Koch, of New York, Ms Kathy Whitmire of Houston, Mr Donald Fraser of Minneapolis and Mr Coleman Young of Detroit.

The most closely fought mayoral election was in Miami, where Mr Maurice Ferre struggled to beat off strong challenges from two Cuban-Americans.

For many years Cubans have not taken much interest in city politics, but with the emergence of a second generation and the waning of dreams of a return to Cuba, Cubans are playing a greater part in the city's complex white-black-Hispanic politics.

In New Jersey's gubernatorial race the polls put the Republican Governor, Mr Thomas Kean, well ahead of his Democrat rival, and the Governor was expected to reap the benefit of New Jersey's economic boom.

In Virginia's gubernatorial contest, Mr Gerald Baliles, Democrat, was expected to beat the Republican, Mr Wyatt Durrette.

Australian High Court hears fellow judge's plea

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mr Justice Lionel Murphy, the Australian High Court judge sentenced to 18 months imprisonment in September, launched an appeal before five of his peers here yesterday against his conviction for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Counsel for the judge, the country's third-ranking judicial officer and a former Attorney General, said 19 points of law would be cited in the appeal.

He was found guilty by a jury in July of attempting to influence the chief magistrate of New South Wales over proceedings against Mr Morgan Ryan, a prominent Sydney solicitor and a personal friend.

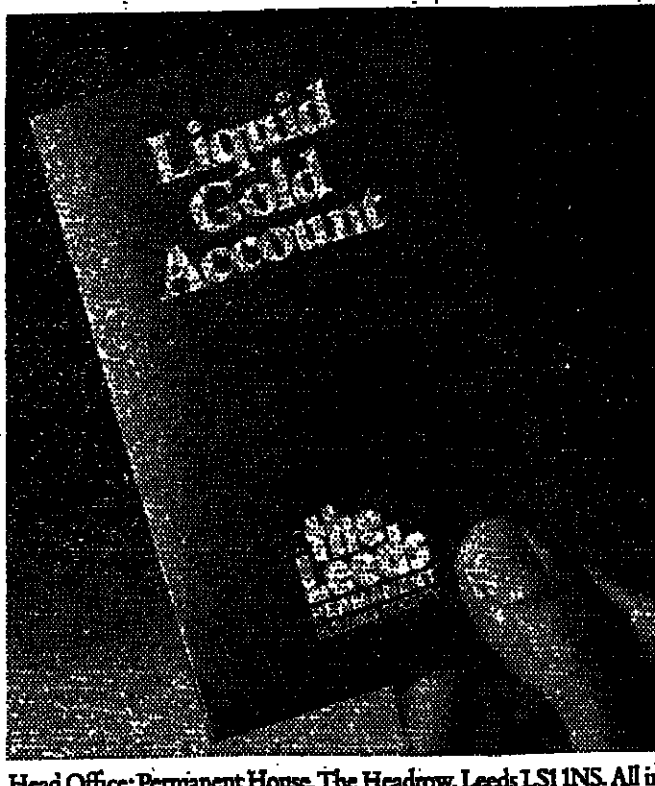
The judge, aged 63, who served in the Whitlam Government, has remained free on bail since sentence and has refused to resign from the High Court bench.

Yesterday's hearing was told by Mr Tom Hughes, QC, that the trial judge had erred in directing the jury that evidence of good character had no bearing and a retired judge gave evidence at the trial as to his good character.

Meanwhile, the High Court rejected yesterday an appeal by Mr Murray Farquhar, a former chief magistrate of New South Wales, against his conviction for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

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Marcos backs down on poll after opposition condemns it as illegal

President Marcos, in a dramatic reversal of his pledge to hold elections in January, said yesterday that the Philippines National Assembly would decide whether a special presidential election will be held.

The announcement followed a threat by a church-backed citizens' election group to boycott the poll and a demand by the nation's largest opposition coalition that Mr Marcos should resign before the vote. Both groups said the proposed election violated the constitution and was illegal.

The constitution provides for a snap presidential election only if Mr Marcos dies, is permanently disabled, resigns or is impeached and removed from office before his term expires in 1992. Under the constitution, the Speaker of the National Assembly should act as caretaker president during the 60 days of a presidential campaign.

Mr Marcos said an election was planned for January 17, more than a year ahead of schedule, during an interview on Monday. He would issue a special decree on the conduct of the election which would allow him to remain in power during the 60-day campaign period.

Now, instead of a decree, the government, dominated by National Assembly, will decide whether to hold the special election or not. Mr Marcos said in a statement. No poll

From Keith Dalton, Manila

date was mentioned and election for a vice-president will be political ploy to flush out his held at the same time as the possible opposition candidates.

The principal reason behind the change in his previously-situation alliance, Unido, also stated position is that issues condemned the proposal of Mr Marcos as "rank violation of stability of his administration and a manifest and the entire programme of scheme to manipulate the government," statement said.

Mr Marcos, in power for 20 years, has been under local and international pressure to hold free and fair elections to end growing political unrest, made worse by an economic crisis and a Communist insurgency.

The election will once and for all erase all doubts regarding the instability and popularity of my administration," Mr Marcos yesterday told farmers in Tarlac.

When he announced the election on Monday, Mr Marcos said a new decree would add a clause to the constitution permitting an early presidential poll whenever "fundamental issues" affected the stability and functioning of government.

The decree would also allow Mr Marcos to remain in office, even while campaigning to "prevent a hiatus in government."

Mr Arturo Tolentino, a former foreign minister, said: "Mr Marcos knows enough law to understand that what he is contemplating is not sanctioned by the constitution. It's illegal."

It's some master hoax or political ploy to flush out his held at the same time as the possible opposition candidates.

The country's largest opposition alliance, Unido, also stated position is that issues condemned the proposal of Mr Marcos as "rank violation of stability of his administration and a manifest and the entire programme of scheme to manipulate the government," statement said.

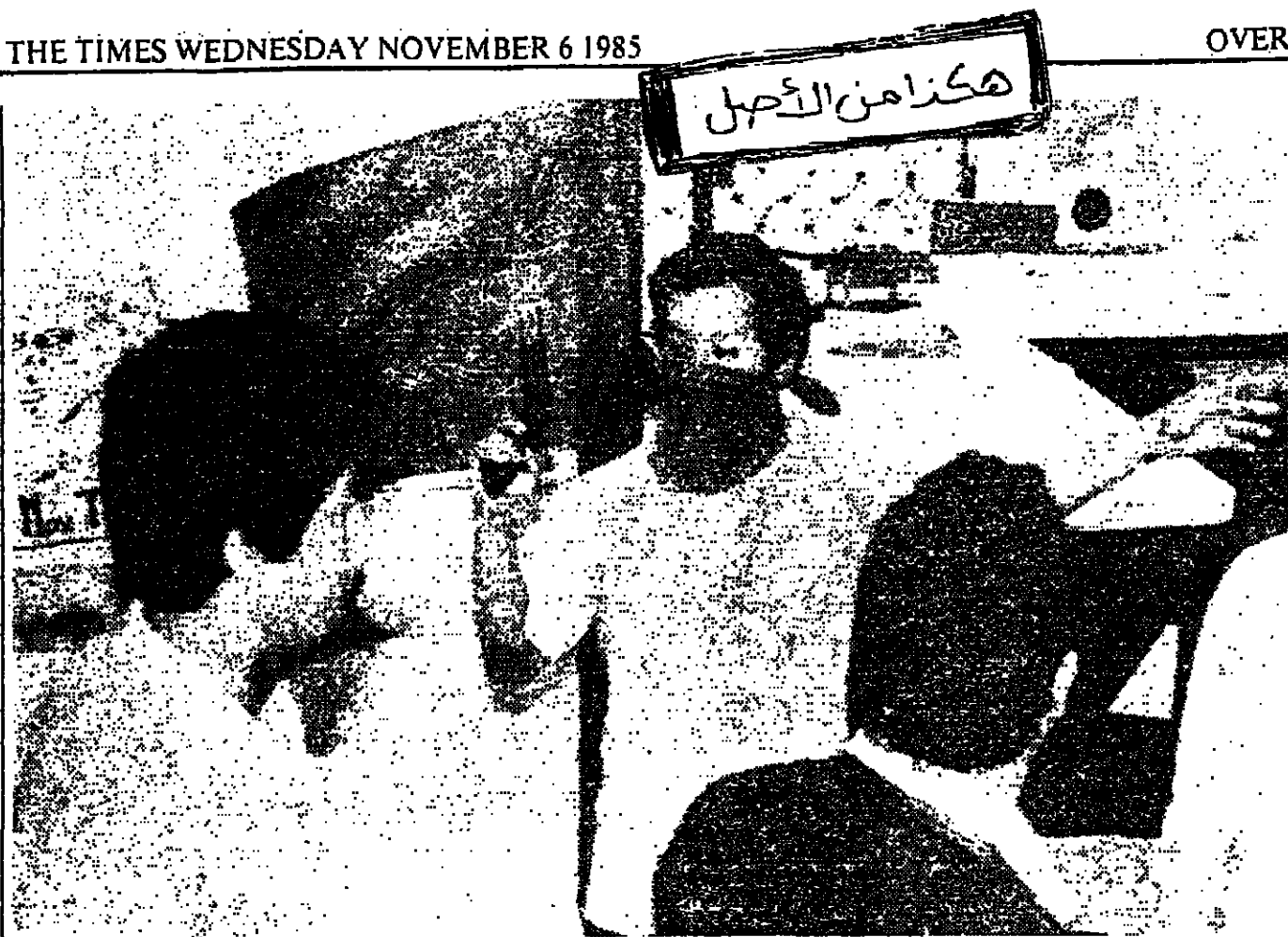
Mr Marcos, in power for 20 years, has been under local and international pressure to hold free and fair elections to end growing political unrest, made worse by an economic crisis and a Communist insurgency.

The election will once and for all erase all doubts regarding the instability and popularity of my administration," Mr Marcos yesterday told farmers in Tarlac.

When he announced the election on Monday, Mr Marcos said a new decree would add a clause to the constitution permitting an early presidential poll whenever "fundamental issues" affected the stability and functioning of government.

The decree would also allow Mr Marcos to remain in office, even while campaigning to "prevent a hiatus in government."

Mr Arturo Tolentino, a former foreign minister, said: "Mr Marcos knows enough law to understand that what he is contemplating is not sanctioned by the constitution. It's illegal."



A masked gunman rounding up journalists at the Lima newspaper *El Nacional*, on Monday for a lecture to publicize guerrilla demands that the Government expel all US Embassy Marine Guards from Peru.

France, NZ at odds over Rainbow trial contacts

Wellington - The New Zealand and French governments gave totally conflicting accounts yesterday over claims that there had been a behind-the-scenes deal between Paris and Wellington over the two agents involved in the sabotage of the Greenpeace protest ship, Rainbow Warrior (Richard Long writes).

While the French Defence Minister, M Paul Quilès, said in Paris there had been discreet contacts between Paris and Wellington over the agents, this was quickly denied in Wellington by the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange.

"So discreet there was no contact," Mr Lange said when asked about the statement. M

Quilès, speaking in a television interview, refused to give any details of the contacts.

The Attorney General, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, dismissed as preposterous allegations that the Government had been involved in a deal over the guilty pleas by the agents, Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart, to the reduced charge

of manslaughter, which ended the preliminary court hearing without the presentation of any evidence.

The French couple had originally been charged with murder over the bomb blasts which sank the Rainbow Warrior on July 10, killing a crew member.

Leading article, page 15

Mwinyi is sworn in as Tanzania President

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi was sworn in yesterday as Tanzania's second President, succeeding the veteran leader, President Nyerere, who had ruled since independence from Britain in 1961.

Mr Mwinyi, aged 60, was sole candidate for the post in elections last month in which he won 92 per cent of the vote.

President Nyerere handed over to him the instruments of power, including the 1984 constitution and the election manifesto of the ruling Revolutionary Party. President Mwinyi was also presented with a shield, spear and kigoda or traditional seat.

President Mwinyi, who is from the semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar, was expected to name his Prime Minister later to replace M. Salim Ahmed Salim and to appoint his Cabinet today.

Dr Nyerere, who is 63, is stepping down as President but is expected to continue to wield considerable power as the chairman of the ruling party, a post he plans to retain until 1987.

Mr Mwinyi is a devout Muslim and, like Dr Nyerere, a committed socialist. He has inherited appalling economic problems.

When President of Zanzibar, he liberalized trade and allowed businessmen to open foreign exchange accounts. He studied education in England and has been Ambassador to Egypt.

Tokyo urges First Lady to heed US

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has called on the Philippines to maintain good relations with the United States.

Mr Nakasone's remarks to Mrs Imelda Marcos, the wife of President Marcos, were seen as a veiled way of urging President Marcos to carry through reforms which the United States is demanding to forestall further advances by the Communist New People's Army.

The country's salvation, said the Prime Minister, lay with the international community and the Philippines must respond to calls on it by international bodies.

Mr Marcos's response to these points was a call for increased help for the economy of the Philippines through increased Japanese purchases of sugar and coconuts and the infusion of high technology to help in the production of by-

products from both of these principal exports.

Japan approved a new loan of \$266 million (£181 million) to the Philippines at the beginning of this month.

Mrs Marcos is at the end of a brief informal visit to Japan on the way home from representing the Philippines at the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

In an interview with *The Japan Times*, Mrs Marcos was angry with the way the Western press "maliciously maligns" President Marcos and was shocked at the way she was being treated by Western political leaders.

"Here we are allies and yet we are being bombarded by all these malicious and inhuman attacks. It's not to be believed". She warned the United States and Japan that to ignore an ally as strategically important as the Philippines "is like suicide."

Washington doubts over chance of fair election

From Michael Binyon, Washington

US officials did not hide their scepticism that President Marcos would go through with a fair ballot that gave opposition leaders a chance to put their views.

On Monday, the Reagan Administration responded with coolness to the President's announcement: "Whatever elections are held, our concern is that they be free and fair," the State Department spokesman said. "If elections are to re-establish confidence, as President Marcos has stated, then it is essential that they be credible to the Philippine people, including satisfactory answers to constitutional questions."

He emphasized that a newly-

elected government would need such credibility to be able to resolve the many problems the country was facing and to restore stability and growth. Confidence in the electoral process also required that the Philippine armed forces conduct themselves in a professional manner.

The spokesman pointedly drew attention to US worries over human rights abuses by the Philippines military forces and over alleged ballot-rigging.

Virtually laying down conditions, he added: "A fair election law, a truly impartial Commission of Elections and an accredited independent citizens' election-monitoring organization are essential."

Strike hits Belgium's coal mines

Hasselt, Belgium (AP) - Belgium's last 18,500 coal miners - a third of them Turks and Moroccans - struck for the second day yesterday, refusing a Government plan to salvage their industry at the cost of nearly 4,000 jobs.

Only five coal pits remain in operation in Belgium, all in North-East Limburg province.

Strikers blocked road and rail traffic in Denk, near here, for a few hours yesterday morning, then marched across the city.

The miners' unions have asked for a meeting with Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister-designate. The State subsidised coal rescue plan is one of the problems he will have to solve in forming his new Government and drafting a programme.

The Limburg mines are losing nearly 10 billion Belgian Francs (£125 million) a year and are unable to compete with cheaper imported coal. Belgium once employed about 200,000 people in 273 coal pits.



Kenneth Thomas Cichowicz, aged 38, a soldier from Buffalo, New York, recovering in hospital in Schlading, Austria, after surviving three weeks with a broken thigh in sub-zero temperatures on the Hailstatter glacier. He had been on a solo mountain tour in the Dachstein range when he fell on October 13. He managed to erect his tent, ate melted snow when he ran out of food

On the seamier side

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese miners stormed out of a suggestive dance show when an actress started to make eyes at them, the *Workers Daily* reported.

It read a visiting variety troupe "used unhealthy movements to stimulate the audience, and performed 'convul-

sive' dancing" in Anhui province.

"One actress tried to make eyes to provoke the audience, which led to sudden whistling, shouting and chaos," it said.

"Our well-loved and serious song *If there was no Communist Party there would be no new China* was distorted

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plan cash-flows, analyse
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Riddle of the double defector

Moscow protests to US over 'immoral kidnap' of Yurchenko

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Further obstacles appeared on the run-up to the Geneva summit yesterday when the Soviet Union issued an angry formal protest to the US over what it claimed was the kidnapping of a Soviet diplomat, Mr Vitaly Yurchenko.

The protest was disclosed by Tass, which reported that the Soviet Embassy in Washington had demanded that Mr Yurchenko be allowed to leave the US without hindrance and that the American authorities issue an apology over his treatment.

Mr Yurchenko, aged 50, is alleged by the US to be the fifth highest-ranking official in the KGB, but at a bizarre press conference in Washington on Monday, he claimed to have been kidnapped by US agents in Rome, drugged and later interrogated in America by the CIA.

First news of the protest was released just as Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State was holding vital pre-summit negotiations in the Kremlin with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. There

were fears that the acrimonious exchange could further damage prospects for the summit.

The language of the Tass law, "was not only an act of terrorism, it was a flagrant violation of the human rights of the Soviet diplomat whom they (the Americans) wanted, with the help of drugs and threats, to make an unthinking, senseless thing, a dumb beast obediently doing the will of those who sanctioned this outrageous violence."

Western officials admitted privately that the incident could not have come at a worse time as far as superpower relations were concerned.

It followed another awkward incident over the weekend in which a Soviet soldier in Afghanistan briefly sought sanctuary in the US Embassy in Kabul.

According to Tass, the US account of Mr Yurchenko's mysterious disappearance was a lie. It added: "This is an outrage which cannot be reconciled in

Reagan rejects interview complaint

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A White House official yesterday dismissed a complaint by four Soviet journalists who interviewed President Reagan that they had had only 30 minutes to ask questions.

It was general White House practice, he said, to grant only 30-minute interviews to foreign news media. At no point was any undertaking given to the Russians flown to Washington last week that it would be longer; in fact it lasted about 42 minutes.

As well as oral answers, President Reagan made lengthy written responses to previously submitted written questions.

The White House had hoped that the interview would be published in full, but was not surprised at the cuts, especially in answers dealing with the use of Soviet force abroad.

Investia omitted a passage on Afghanistan in which Mr Reagan said: "The government which invited the Soviet troops in didn't have a choice, because the government was put there by the Soviet Union." It also deleted his assertion that the peoples of East Europe "were never allowed the self-determination that was agreed to... at the end of World War Two".

The White House is analysing the motives and policy significance of the cuts, the official said.

He rejected the journalists' charge that Mr Reagan had been forced to give the interview because Western public opinion and Washington's allies were being won over by Soviet arguments in the run-up to the US-Soviet meeting.

The President was pleased to have had "his own opportunity" to put his views to the Soviet people, and the White House still hoped that Soviet television would interview Mr Reagan before the Geneva meeting.

Hopes rise for European security

Stockholm (Reuters) - The Stockholm Conference on Disarmament in Europe started its eighth session yesterday amid signs that work on drafting an agreement to make war in Europe less likely could start before the end of this year.

Herr Klaus Citron, of West Germany, said after the opening plenary meeting that all speakers had expressed hope that this month's Geneva summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, would give new impetus to the talks.

Even limited success in Geneva will have a positive impact here, he told reporters.

The 35 countries taking part in the talks, which began in January 1984, are trying to negotiate confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of a European war caused by surprise attack, accident or miscalculation.

Herr Citron said he hoped the last two weeks of this session, which ends on December 20, could be used as a trial period for drafting measures which already enjoy widespread support, such as notification and observation of military activities.



Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State (right), talking with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, before they started talks in the Kremlin yesterday.

Bookmakers toast the Prince

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The Prince of Wales was the toast of Australian bookmakers last night after the running of the Melbourne Cup, the nation's top horse race, and the heaviest betting of the year by local punters.

The Prince attended yesterday's race with the Princess of Wales as the climax of his official duties at the 150th anniversary celebrations of the state of Victoria.

The cup was won by a 15-1 outsider, What a Nuisance. But of more relevance to most punters was the fact that the Prince's tip, which started the race as hot favourite, was hardly to be found at the finish.

The Melbourne Cup is Australia's equivalent of the Kentucky Derby or the Grand National, a race that has more to do with national culture than with horse racing. It is the first in Victoria, Cup Day is a public holiday. All over the country work ceases while radio and television commentators relay the race in offices and bars.

In the fever of the race build-up, the Prince was asked while visiting the town of Macedon on Saturday if he had a tip. His response, that he had been advised Our Sophie was a likely prospect, was promptly seized upon by the local media.

Immediately the odds on Our Sophie started to shorten as the kind of punters who only bet once a year, and then on the Melbourne Cup, took on the royal tip. Suddenly Our Sophie was on everyone's lips. The bookies were taking in bets as fast as they could handle them. On Saturday Our Sophie was 7-1. At the off it was 9-2 favourite.

That was the best performance. It was never up to the leaders and came in tenth. Just in front of Our Sophie was Black Knight, which the Prince had said he had been told was good for a place.

Betting on the race was the heaviest in history and could total \$A100 million (\$50 million).

How Israelis seal a family's fate

From Ian Murray, Shufat Camp, near Jerusalem

At 9am the builders arrived at the rooftop flat in Sultana Street, the dusty, dirty track that leads into this Palestinian refugee camp from the main road north of Jerusalem.

The flat was a cramped set of lean-tos on the roof of the family home of Mr Haleh Abu Adwan, but his income as a taxi driver was too low to provide anything better for his wife and four tiny children.

Mr Najib Diebis helped to run the cafe in Sultana Street, and he was better off. His red-haired wife and five children lived in part of a large house with a walled garden. At 9 o'clock yesterday the builders came there as well.

The two men were arrested a month ago for questioning about a series of pipe bomb explosions at bus stops and road junctions in the Jerusalem area going back to last April. Ten people had been wounded by the bombs, including a young boy who had his foot blown off.

The arrival of the builders meant that the two men had confessed to the bombings, which Israeli security forces say were carried out on behalf of Fatah, the Palestinian network which was the original power base for Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman.

The builders were accompanied by border police.

Arafat in Egypt to ease tension over ship hijack

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, flew into Cairo on Monday night, and met President Mubarak for more than two hours yesterday before joining a plenary session with Egyptian and Palestinian officials.

It was not until mid-afternoon that the two leaders came out of the Khuba Palace, but they were whisked away smiling and waving while reporters, who were kept at some distance, helplessly shouted questions.

Even Mr Osama al-Baz, President Mubarak's usually outspoken political advisor, refused to comment except to say that the talks would be continuing and that some progress had been made.

Mr Arafat is in Cairo as much to ease the tensions which arose between the PLO and Egypt in the wake of the Achille Lauro affair as to find a way to infuse the Middle East peace talks with new vigour.

Egypt is known to be upset over the recent wave of violence in the Middle East.

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Santiago reels as protest starts

Santiago (Reuters) - Bombers struck 17 times overnight and demonstrators disrupted public transport with barricades at the start of a 48-hour protest against Chile's military junta.

Police said six buses were burnt in the capital and in the port city of Valparaiso. The main railway line to the port was cut by a bomb.

President Pinochet ordered troops on to the streets to guard intersections, bridges and underground stations and to patrol shanty-towns in southern Santiago where the barricades were erected early yesterday.

Belgian banks bombed again

Brussels (AFP) - Explosions wrecked two Belgian banks without causing any casualties, bringing to four the number of such attacks in the past two days.

The first bombs yesterday destroyed the headquarters of the Hannover bank at Charleroi, 35 miles south of here. The second exploded in front of the Kredietbank in Louvain, 12 miles east of the capital.

9m abortions

Peking (Reuters) - China revealed figures which showed that a third of all pregnancies in the country last year were aborted. There were about 18 million births and nearly nine million abortions in 1984. Officials denied that authorities forced abortions as part of efforts to restrict population growth.

Poison meat

Lyons (AFP) - Twenty people are being treated here for food poisoning after eating horsemeat. All the victims bought their meat from the same travelling butcher whose stocks have been seized.

Bhutto in Nice

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani opposition leader, arrived in Nice yesterday, after an overnight stop in London, to answer questions about the mysterious death of her brother.

Tehran flights

Tehran (Reuters) - Syrian Air resumed scheduled flights between Damascus and Tehran, the first foreign airline to restart service to the Iranian capital since Iraq declared Iranian airspace a war zone in March.

Song of soya

Jakarta (Reuters) - Indonesia offered the equivalent of £700 for song extolling the joys of planting soyabans. The Director-General of Food Crops said he hoped the song would encourage farmers to plant more beans and slash imports.

Ship freed

Tehran (Reuters) - A West German ship, detained by the Iranian Navy, was allowed to proceed to Kuwait after inspection revealed it had no cargo for Iraq, the official Iranian news agency said.

Papal player

Rome (Reuters) - Andre Segovia, the Spanish guitarist, gave the Pope a special performance in the pontiff's residence yesterday and attended Mass in the Pope's private chapel.

Lagos delay

Lagos (AFP) - The postponement by a year of Nigeria's latest five-year plan will give the country's two-month-old military Government a freer economic hand, officials here said.

10 still missing

Stavanger (AFP) - There was little hope for 10 people missing from the Norwegian converted barge, loaded with cement, which sank on Monday night near here.

Boat people

Hong Kong (AFP) - A group of Vietnamese sailed into Hong Kong, bringing to 992 the number to have arrived here this year.

Cruise debate

The Hague (Reuters) - The Dutch Parliament will debate the Government's decision to accept the deployment of 48 cruise missiles next week.

Trail of defections from East and West

Some of the more spectacular defections of recent years are:

February 1978: Arkady Shevchenko, a former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York, defected to the United States. It was subsequently disclosed that he had been a CIA agent for several years.

September 1984: Oleg Bitov, a senior editor of the *Literary Gazette* of Moscow, reappeared in the Soviet Union after defecting to the West at the

alleged that he had been drugged, kidnapped and tortured by British agents.

August 1985: Hans-Joachim Tiedge, head of West German counter-intelligence, defected to East Germany. His was the most important of a series of defections from Bonn which began in July with the disappearance of Sonja Lueburg, a senior secretary in the Economics Ministry.

September 1985: Edward Howard, aged 33, a former CIA officer in the US Embassy in

Moscow, disappeared from his home in New Mexico, probably after his identity had been given to the Americans by Mr Yurchenko. He was believed to have fled to Moscow.

September 1985: Oleg Gordievsky, head of KGB operations in Britain, defected. It was later disclosed that he had been a Western agent for 19 years. The expulsion of 25 Soviet citizens from Britain as a result of information provided by Mr Gordievsky sparked off a round of tit-for-tat expulsions between Moscow and London.

Lost war pilot finally laid to rest in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The remains of Flight Sergeant Reginald Thursty were finally laid to rest in the presence of his wartime sweetheart yesterday, 41 years after he was shot down by the Germans during a bombing raid over Normandy.

Flight Sergeant Thursty, aged 21, set out with seven other members of No 108 Squadron Royal Air Force from his base near Bayeux on August 9, 1944, to bomb suspected German gun positions at Fouches and the Bois de Feuillet in Calvados.

His typhoon was hit by anti-aircraft fire, however, and he bled to Squadron Leader Paul Ezanno, now a retired General of the French Air Force, to say that his aircraft

was on fire and that he was returning to base. Two minutes later, he radioed again to say that he intended to bail out. Those were his last words.

Flight Sergeant Thursty was reported missing, believed dead, but his body was never found until six weeks ago, when his skeleton was uncovered under nearly 20 feet of mud by excavators of the Bayeux Museum, acting on behalf of local former Resistance fighters.

Among those attending yesterday's military funeral for Flight Sergeant Thursty at St Charles de Percy were Mrs Doreen Young, his former fiancée, now married and in her sixties, General Ezanno, and two representatives of the British Embassy in Paris.

British breakthrough in mine warfare

Brussels (Reuters) - British companies have devised the world's first underwater mine which can be switched on and off at will, a breakthrough which could revolutionize naval warfare, a West German military expert says.

In the latest edition of the *Europäische Wehrkunde* defence magazine, Rolf Hallebach, a retired army colonel and former Nato official, says the device can be commanded

by sonar - low frequency underwater sound beams. Nato naval experts said the report was accurate.

The mine could be laid before the outbreak of war and activated only when enemy vessels were in the vicinity, enabling friendly ships to pass unhindered through minefields.

It would give Nato a great advantage over the Soviet Union and its allies in any maritime conflict.

Hopes dwindle for a lasting peace Lebanon waits in vain to end its agony

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Stavro, the witty and often savage cartoonist whose work appears daily on the back of the Lebanese Christian paper *Le Reuel*, caught the mood rather well this week.

On a desk in one of his most recent drawings, lay Syria's most publicised but secret peace plan for Lebanon, the pages tied with red ribbon and only awaiting the signatures of the three Lebanese militias which have been negotiating in Damascus a permanent ceasefire under the tired gaze of Mr Yassir Arafat's PLO men.

But the fundamentalist Hezbollah Party of God, whose power is growing almost daily in Shia areas of Lebanon and whose influence over Amal is now so great that Mr Nabih Berri, the Amal leader, can scarcely take any political decisions without considering their wishes. In some areas of Southern Lebanon traditionally under Mr Berri's control, the Hezbollah now dominate every town and village.

Those Palestinians in Lebanon who still support Mr Arafat's anti-Syrian PLO guerrilla movement have also been left out of the talks. While there is no legitimate reason for their inclusion - they are, after all, not Lebanese - they are nonetheless still capable of destroying any political settlement which Syria achieves in Lebanon.

In theory, the groups partici-

pating in the Damascus talks all recognize the need for an end to the Lebanese war and for a reshaping of the Lebanese national covenant, that amorphous, unwritten constitution which the French helped to construct back in the 1940s and which gave the Christian population, no longer the largest religious community in the country, dominance over the Muslim sects.

The Christians hold the presidency, with executive powers. They control the Army and many of the financial institutions. The Shias, now the largest single community in Lebanon, have had little or no influence over governmental policy-making although when Mr Berri was given the Justice Ministry in President Gemayel's coalition, he rarely turned up to Cabinet meetings and preferred to regard himself as Minister of the Lebanese (Anti-Israeli) National Resistance, a department which does not exist.

But this debate is in one sense irrelevant. At the so-called "reconciliation" conferences in Geneva and then at Lausanne, Lebanese politicians all agreed that the covenant had to be changed in favour of the Muslims.

The Syrians, who like to project themselves as the protectors of Lebanon's Christian minority, albeit after some fierce and indiscriminate shelling of Christian towns over the past 10 years, have many times

proposed that the Christians should retain the presidency but with executive powers transferred to the Prime Minister who, under the power-sharing covenant, is a Sunni Muslim. Yet the Sunnis have been excluded from the Damascus talks.

In reality, the Damascus negotiations are about the creation of a quiescent and compliant Lebanon in which all minority groups are forced to rely upon Syria for their continued political power and existence.

This is one reason Syria so ruthlessly crushed the Sunni militia in Tripoli last month, installing their own troops in Lebanon's largest city. This is also why the Syrians were prepared to invite Mr Elie Hobeika, the very Phalangist leader whom Israel blames for the massacre of Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila in 1982, to the Damascus negotiations.

What they are now talking about is merely an instrument to end the physical conflict in Lebanon, a set of eight proposals that include: a ceasefire throughout Lebanon, with Syria to police it; a new all-party security committee with Syrian observers to supervise the truce; yet another reorganization of the national army; the "resettling" of all refugees, in itself a mammoth undertaking; and, incredibly, a plan for the Lebanese state to buy all weapons from the powerful militias.

Aggressive Karpov in critical fight

Moscow (Reuters) - Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion fighting to continue his ten-year reign, began the 22nd game of the title match yesterday with a display of raw aggression against the challenger, Gary Kasparov.

Karpov trails in the 24-game series by 9½ points to 11½ and Kasparov, at 22, needs only one point to become the youngest champion.

Playing White, Karpov pursued his fading chances with an early advance of pawns on the king's side. Kasparov spent much time in the opening and appeared nervous.

The decision to retreat his bishop on move 9 was criticized by several grandmasters and Kasparov appeared headed for a slight disadvantage. Karpov, aged 34, looked haggard and drawn, but, with little left to lose, was relaxed in contrast to Kasparov, who appeared uncomfortable, fidgeting and constantly adjusting his tie in the tense atmosphere.

Twenty-second game White Karpov. Black Kasparov Queen's Gambit, exchange variation

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	2 P-Q4	P-Q4
3 N-Q3	N-Q3	4 P-Q3	P-Q3
5 B-N3	B-N3	6 P-Q3	P-Q3
7 P-Q4	P-Q4	8 P-Q4	P-Q4
9 P-Q4	P-Q4	10 P-Q4	P-Q4
11 P-Q4	P-Q4	12 P-Q4	P-Q4
13 P-Q4	P-Q4	14 P-Q4	P-Q4
15 P-Q4	P-Q4	16 P-Q4	P-Q4
17 P-Q4	P-Q4	18 P-Q4	P-Q4
19 P-Q4	P-Q4	20 P-Q4	P-Q4
21 P-Q4	P-Q4	22 P-Q4	P-Q4
23 P-Q4	P-Q4	24 P-Q4	P-Q4
25 P-Q4	P-Q4	26 P-Q4	P-Q4

سكوا كاسباروف

Super Shuttle can land when others haven't the foggiest

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THE ARTS

Television
Palliative
for the
queue

"You're giving me GBH of the carboles", said Tucker to his little sister Rhona as they queued in the leisure centre in this week's edition of Tucker's Luck (BBC2). Do people really speak like this? Certainly they do in the new genre of the Eighties - the drole drama, designed to reflect the lifestyle of the unemployed.

Whether Tucker's Luck is totally accurate about life on the dole is debatable. On the other hand, it will help millions of unemployed viewers to feel important and assure them they are not neglected. Television which shows social distress is as much a palliative as a channel for social change.

But script-writers of the future hoping to learn from this series take note: Tucker's Luck succeeds because it combines street credibility with character stereotypes and narrative situations borrowed from traditional dramas. Tucker is socially ungainly in the style of many of Bill Forsyth's heroes, and his attraction to middle-class Natalia conjures up numerous American films about loving someone higher on the social ladder.

The final part of Probation (BBC2), which continued the saga of Gary and Justine, is the flip-side of dramas like Tucker's Luck. It was a documentary which looked at the socially disadvantaged without flinching.

Life at the bottom of the pyramid in documentary is never as racy or action-packed as it is in serials but in this case the compensation was disarming profundity. Gary, 24, fresh out of prison, found it hard to converse with his pregnant girlfriend. His old hard-man image ("hit-and-run-as-a-question-mark") was redundant, yet he had not found a replacement self-image in which to exist. He was emotionally in between. This was real drama in a way none of the soaps are: a man asking "Who am I?"

Carlo Gebler

Dance: John Percival reports from Copenhagen on the international splash created by the Royal Danish Ballet to inaugurate the lavishly refurbished Royal Theatre

Princely display
for the world's
greatest Dane

Burgeoning adolescent love: Mette Bodtcher and Peter Bo Bendixen as Ophelia and Hamlet



While Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells are still bravely trying to raise money for their piecemeal refurbishing, Copenhagen has just spent two years and nearly twenty million pounds largely rebuilding its 111-year-old Royal Theatre. It is a question of social priorities; the motto over the proscenium arch says it all: *Et blot til lyst* - "not only for pleasure".

Reassuringly, the solid foyers and cosy auditorium remain as they were. At first sight the stage looks the same too, until you realize how much wider the proscenium opening is. The orchestra pit as well as the stage has been substantially enlarged, the obstructive footlights have gone, and I am told that all the mechanisms and backstage facilities are improved out of recognition.

Unlike English theatres, the house accommodates drama, opera and ballet equally. At the opening, the choice was designed for the widest local audience: a new but surely traditional production (shown live on television) of *Masquerade*, a bustling, popular play with music, an eighteenth-century Danish classic by Holberg, whose statue stands by the theatre entrance. To make an international splash, the Royal Danish Ballet was the next to take the stage, with *Amleth*, a new three-act work on the best-known of Danish princes, Hamlet.

The international flavour of the occasion is shown by the choice of creators: a subject from Danish history, made famous by an English playwright, is staged by an American choreographer based in Germany, danced to music by an Englishman (Tippett - and

how often do you hear a whole evening of his orchestral music?), with designs by a German, Klaus Hellenstein. The fact that the hero is given his historical name of Amleth offers an indication that John Neumeier has drawn part of his inspiration from Shakespeare's source, the chronicler Saxo Grammaticus.

Jutland in the dark ages is the scene, although Amleth's father begins the action by leading an army to Norway and killing the Norwegian king. Back home he assumes the crown and claims Gertrude for wife, but she is more taken by his brother Fenge and eventually succumbs to adultery. The rest of Act I shows Amleth's birth and upbringing, counterpointed by the desire of old Norway's son Fortinbras for vengeance.

Thereafter the action is on familiar ground but with some twists. Laertes and Horatio are neither present nor missed; Polonius is a grave counsellor with a flair for switching masters at the right time; Ophelia's enthusiasm for flowers manifests itself long before it leads her to a watery death. More important, Amleth finally responds to the ghost's urgings, kills his stepfather and crowns himself, but almost at once vacates the throne to Fortinbras, who arrives at the crucial moment. Finally, Amleth wanders away from the court, a free man - but free for what?

The musical basis for this action comprises Tippett's Second and Fourth Symphonies (for Acts I and II respectively), with the Triple Concerto for the middle act and three movements from the Divertimento on "Selling's Round" as a postlude to Act I, a scene in which Ophelia waits to

bid Amleth farewell when he goes abroad to study, and the pair of them declare their love.

Tippett's music has a strong dramatic quality, and for the most part Neumeier's choice of it serves him well. Sometimes, I suspect, the exigencies of the score cause deviations or long-windedness; harmfully in a scene where some clowns (equivalent to Shakespeare's strolling players) go on and on showing Amleth how his father died - or are they perhaps embodying his own slow realization of the truth? On the other hand, if it was the music that prompted Neumeier to introduce a human sacrifice to the god of fertility as part of the wedding ceremony for the parents, the result, in terms of historical perspective and gruesome mood, is chillingly effective - besides suggesting that Neumeier would probably be the ideal choreographer for *The Midsummer Marriage*.

Sometimes Neumeier has been obliged to put vital bits of action in the silence between movements, presumably because they fitted nowhere else; and at one point, also between movements of the Second Symphony, he introduces little girls, friends of the infant Ophelia, singing an unaccompanied song dating from about 1300. The choice of music, then, is good, even inspired, but not ideal. It is cogently played under Peter Ernst Lassen's direction.

Perhaps partly because of varying aptness of the score, but probably also because some parts of the story are more gripping than others, the quality of the choreography is uneven. But it is never boring, even if the scenes of

Norwegian or Danish soldiers advancing, leaping, falling, waving banners and so on do go on rather. Running more than three hours (including two intervals), the ballet could gain from a little trimming, but that would necessitate cutting the scores - presumably unthinkable.

The best is very good indeed, above all the first love duet for Amleth and Ophelia: very long, but sustained at a high point of emotional intensity and kinetic interest all through, condensing into one sequence the whole experience of adolescent discovery of love. Ophelia's gawiness turning into grace, Amleth's preoccupation with his own concerns growing into concern for another, it is beautifully performed by two young dancers, Peter Bo Bendixen and Mette Bodtcher.

His performance throughout is attractively nuanced; she is amazing - funny and touching, dutiful and caring, so that her madness when rejected becomes almost unbearable. Also notable are Linda Hindberg as Gertrude and Lars Damsgaard as Fenge, both of them equally convincing in the expression of public politics and private lust. The cast as a whole is convincing, the big ensembles of male dancing for the battle scenes are vigorously impressive, and an excellent group of pupils from the school play Amleth, Fortinbras, Ophelia and her friends as children.

With a young and ambitious new artistic director (the dancer Frank Andersen, aged 32) taking over as it moves back to its rebuilt home, there could be interesting times ahead for the Royal Danish Ballet.

Rock

Robert Cray Band
Hammersmith Odeon

White boys such as I grew up believing that the great American blues singers lived the lives of which they sang. Imaginations inflamed by lurid sexual metaphors and picturesque tales, we were easily persuaded that John Lee Hooker was in the habit of drowning his more temperamental women friends and that Muddy Waters made frequent trips to Louisiana to buy himself a mojo hand, whatever that was.

These heroes were also expected to dress the part, as if they had just stepped off a chain gang. Robert Cray, neat and tidy in a well-pressed shirt and slacks, looks as though he has just been plucked from the queue outside a suburban discotheque, yet this young Californian singer and guitarist performs the blues with a vigorous authenticity that has brought him sudden acclaim.

Cray and tight little band - organ, bass guitar and drums - play the sort of lean but

muscular rhythm 'n' blues familiar from the work of B. B. King and Little Milton. What Cray adds is a sermonizing vocal style that put me in mind of the Memphis soul star Johnnie Taylor. A notably lyrical guitarist, Cray has a real gift for enriching the chords of the 12-bar blues without violating their age-old spirit.

Some of the songs, such as his own "The Last Time I Got Burned Like This" and Dennis Walker's "Porch Light", are outstanding examples of domestic storytelling in the best tradition of realism without self-pity. "You'll probably lose your husband, I'll probably lose my wife/You'd think that we'd know better at this point in our lives", one verse goes.

The trouble is that none of it really seems to be a matter of life and death. And why should it? These are only songs. It probably means that Cray is a balanced human being. This will not deny him the success he deserves, but it will probably keep him from greatness.

Richard Williams

UB40
Wembley Arena

UB40 have sustained a remarkably cohesive, anonymous and successful career, the leaderless eight-piece line-up remaining unchanged since they signed their first recording contract in Birmingham six years ago. With two extra players in the horn section and additional toasters drafted in to help with some of the dub tracks performed from their recent *Baggarriddim* release, their live show continues to provide gainful employment for a generous aggregate of musicians.

The message of social concern which their name represents, however, was difficult to discern at this performance, given the murky quality of the rolling bass-heavy sound produced in the cavernous arena. The toasting vocalists featured in the various dub sections such as "Hip Hop Lyrical Robot", "The Buzz Feeling" and "Mi Split" was incomprehensible, but the soporific quality of these songs at least was mitigated by the lively antics of chief toaster Astro, and the carnival noises of an audience that had come to dance.

Their aim of using reggae

dance music as a vehicle of political expression was served better by the more familiar material, such as "One In Ten" and a segue from "Tyler" into "Present Arms", where a dramatic combination of pulsing rhythm was overlaid with Radiophonic Workshop-type effects and intercut with a rousing voluntary from the horn section, who performed while jogging vigorously on the spot.

But by far the best moments were the performances of their most popular hits, songs such as "Cherry Oh Baby" and "Red Red Wine", with its gentle, lilting refrain sung in the close harmony of an early Jamaican diction of the staid-looking brothers Robin and Ali Campbell.

The group's curious ability to run with the hare and the hounds was never more evident than during the encores, when another impenetrable dub track, "Dubmobile", powered by a huge grumbling bass sound, was followed by the appearance of a moonlighting Chrissie Hynde, who duetted with Ali Campbell on the cheerfully kitsch Sixties pop song "I Got You, Babe", their recent hit.

David Sinclair

The Great White
Hope
Tricycle

A huge success in New York in the late Sixties, Howard Sackler's fictionalized reconstruction of the career of Jack Johnson - the first black heavyweight world champion - is inseparably linked with the memory of James Earl Jones, who first created the role of "Jack Jefferson" on the Washington Arena stage, and then perpetuated it on film.

What this long-delayed British premiere shows is that the play was built to last, and that its qualities can survive without the presence of a Robesonesque star. Hugh Quarshie's performance is dedicated, intelligent and fierce; but without any

aspirations as a noble embodiment of the race, instead of physical and moral magnitude, it shows the champion as a limited man, in all respects but one a creature of his place and time.

This strikes me as a faithful approach to a play which rearranges the fighter's career into a fable on intransigence. Jefferson grows up in Teddy Roosevelt's America, and takes its offer of "a square deal for everybody" at face value. If a Negro can fight his way to the top, he can also live with a white woman.

Society then moves in to prove him wrong in an action of punitive atonement that slowly wipes the famous smile off his face. Jumping bail, he and the devoted Ellie (Jenny Quattle) embark on a long European pilgrimage, a world champion

Theatre

exited from the ring, who sinks at one point to playing Uncle Tom in a Hungarian night club. The sight of the lovers falling apart and finally splitting up (a magnificently acted scene) is painfully truthful. But the measure of the play, and of Nicolas Kent's production, is its success in offsetting the central relationship with passages of direct address that give full due to the voices of racial rebellion, law and order, and even

Jefferson's opponents in the Negro community.

Group scenes, such as the gospel frenzy over the coffin of Jefferson's mother, and the finale ring-side action at his titillating fight, are thrillingly staged. It is a large company show, with an incisive sense of period, and memorable performances from Joseph Mydell and Ella Wilder.

Irving Wardle

Lumps in the dough

Basin
Royal Court Upstairs

Halfway through Jacqueline Rudet's new three-hander we learn what the title means. Early

in life, growing girls in Dominica are each given a basin in which to cleanse their private parts, and later keep up the practice in order to maintain themselves in a state of readiness for their husbands' sexual demands. What should simply be a matter of hygiene and aesthetics thus becomes a symbol of the subservience that West Indian men require of their women and against which this play militates.

To this end, we discover a single Dominican girl of unspecified vocation (Dona Croll) clearing up her Birmingham flat after a drinks party. Enter her friends Susan, a bright, sophisticated actress (Beverly Hills), and then Michelle, a penniless, promiscuous single mother (and a delightfully acute performance from Susan Harper-Browne). Michelle, true to form, dashes off to meet one of her many boyfriends with a scrounged dress; Susan rolls a joint on a Joan Armatrading album cover and promptly declares that she fancies her hostess. After some demurring, Mona sustains the pair become a steady item.

Susan decamps on a theatrical tour, leaving Mona to do the housework and to realize that she misses her absent lover. Michelle, meanwhile, has procured employment in a bingo hall and is now sleeping with Mona's ne'er-do-well "ex". Previously disgusted by her friends' lesbian affair, Michelle makes it up with the happy couple.

It must be said that Miss Rudet leaves her polemic with everyday concerns (which is, in fact, her true forte) though it must also be said that the resultant dough has a rather lumpy texture, with speeches kicking off in street demotic and finishing up in pamphletee.

Paulette Randall's production is straightforwardly naturalistic, so we naturally expect to see believable characters who say believable things. Real people do indeed sometimes deliver lines such as "Listen, about that night you made me realize a lot of things" - and, when they do, we laugh; here, unfortunately, the line is uttered (and intended) with complete sobriety, and only the routine "humour" about sexual stereotyping draws signs of amusement from the well-disposed audience.

Martin Cropper

The Belgian violinist Michael Guttman, who was partnered by his mother, Simone Guttman, is already an experienced, widely-travelled soloist. Consequently, the extremely high quality of his playing was marginally less of a surprise than it might otherwise have been. In Schumann's Violin Sonata, Op. 105, his stamina for the breadth and variety of this stormy romantic canvas was ideally complemented by an intense but never rough-edged tone, though Prokofiev's somewhat milder Sonata, Op. 94b, showed that his playing has a potentially reflective side to it too. And if Tchaikovsky's sprawling *Meditation* sounded very much an unfashionable choice, Guttman made as good a case for it as could be made. Anyway, he quickly countered with Tchaikovsky's idiomatic and colourful arrangements of 10 of Shostakovich's piano preludes, sharply witty fragments delivered here with a disarming bite.

Stephen Pettitt

The Greek guitarist Eleftheria Kotzia thankfully avoided the same old repertoire, although the absence of any notes on the music was an annoyance. But she is certainly an adept instrumentalist, convincing both in matters of style and technique. Smith-Brindle's *El Polifemo de Oro* (from his Dattapiccola phase), with its integrated alternations between atonality and tonality, was a confirmation of her serious intent. Conversely, the Mediterranean colour of Giorgiakis's Four Greek Images (a world premiere) exhibited Miss Kotzia's ability to vary her touch with fluency. It was a tribute to her skill and unfailingly beguiling tone that she saved her former teacher Fampas's Suite No. 4 from sounding dull and staid.

James Methuen-Campbell

I had to miss the Brahms F minor Sonata which took up the second half of Jonathan Frowright's piano recital, but the first half alone contained evidence enough that we have yet another marvellous natural talent on our hands. Scriabin's Second Sonata and Chopin's F sharp Impromptu were both superlatively done, full of playing which was immensely powerful when required but never crude, brilliant but never flashy, and technically seemingly untroubled; a no-nonsense attitude to phrasing was enhanced by a quite lovely range of tone-colours in the quieter passages.

Plowright also gave a fleet-footed account of a batch of Scarlatti sonatas, and showed himself to be very much on terms with the astringent and technically demanding idiom of Frank Martin's Eight Preludes of 1948. The musical world is of course knee-deep in pianists, but on this form Plowright is an exceptional artist with a fine career ahead of him - assuming that ability is allowed to be the deciding factor, which as we know it frequently is not.

London débuts

Unruffled intensity

The solo part in Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* might seem an unassuming choice for the first London appearance of a Tchaikovsky Competition prize-winner, but it was immediately clear that the young Bulgarian violinist, Dora Bratchkova was not going to be unduly concerned with stylistic authenticity. Given this reservation, it was impossible not to be won round by a technical display of total authority, complemented by a capacity for emotional involvement which makes one keen to hear Miss Bratchkova in music more obviously suited to her - the Brahms Concerto, for instance.

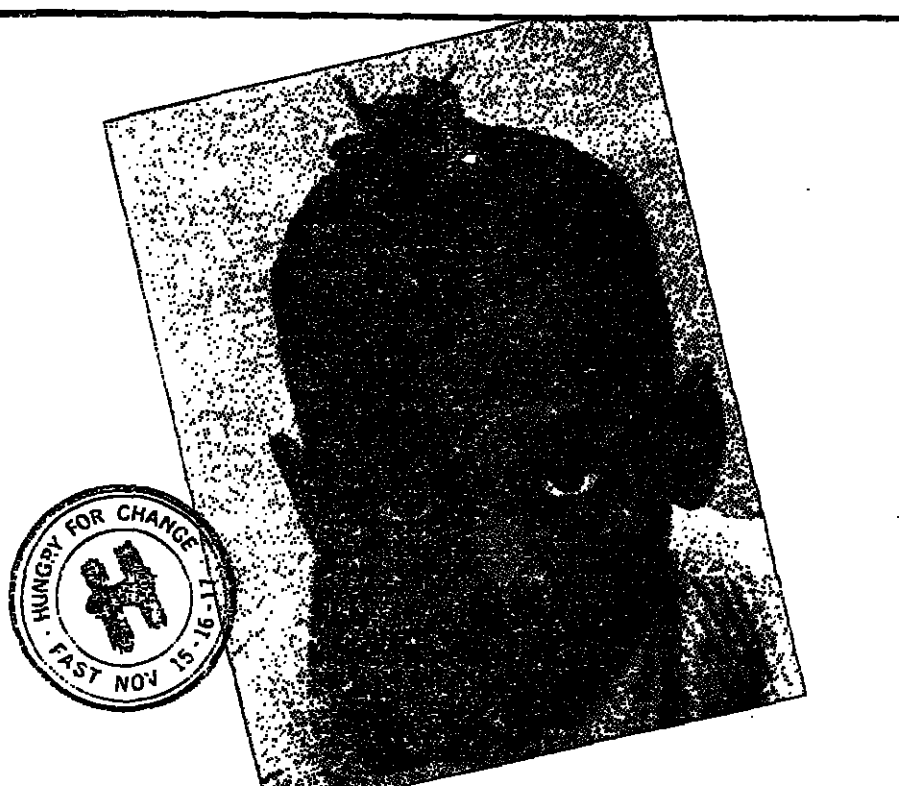
The London Soloists Chamber Orchestra provided exemplary accompaniment throughout, without a trace of scrappiness anywhere in spite of some determinedly brisk tempi insisted on by the conductor David Joskowicz (or maybe by Miss Bratchkova?).

As part of the Early Music Centre Festival, the New World Consort from Canada gave a highly accomplished concert of sixteenth-century music. Their programme's contrast of Tudor England with the French Renaissance rather gave the impression that we were a dull

lot in those days compared to our racy continental colleagues; thus Jean Flanson's "Nous estions trois jumeaux" (about a monk encountering three young ladies dancing in a meadow and duly getting his come-uppance) was amusingly characterized by Suzie LeBlanc, whose soprano voice of bell-like purity was allowed to expand to telling effect in Claudin de Sermisy's poignant lament "Au joly bois". Nan Mackie (violin) and Ray Nurse (lute) provided some deft interplay in a Pavane et Gaillarde by Etienne du Terrou; Peter Hannan contributed alertly throughout on recorders of different sizes. Frequent re-tunings between movements attested to the Prazák Quartet of Prague's

difficulties: the refined philosophy of Mozart's Quartet, K575, with which they began was spoilt by small but persistent errors of intonation. Sheer determination, it seemed, produced better results in Smetana's Second Quartet, whose disturbed and volatile gestures seem to prefigure Schoenbergian expressionism by several decades. Dvorák's enchanting Quartet in A major, Op. 105, showed yet further improvement, but the true evidence of this group's ability came in their choice of "encore": doubtless exasperated by their previous shortcomings, they delivered the finale of Janáček's First Quartet with a degree of fierce intensity which I have not heard even the Smetana or Janáček Quartets achieve. If Mozart in D major had earlier presented problems, then burling about in Janáček's A flat minor caused none whatever.

Malcolm Hayes



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 is a sermonizing
 that put me in mind
 Memphis soul
 Taylor, a notably
 star touch and a real
 reaching the chords of
 a blues without violat
 ing old spirit

of the songs, such as his "Last Time I Got This" and Dennis "Fourth Light," are examples of down-to-earth realism in the best of ways. "You'll probably lose, but I'll probably lose, too," he says. "You'd think that we'd stop at this point in a war, but it goes on."

is that none of us seems to be a matter of death. And why should we see only songs. It means that Cray is a human being. This may ruin the success he has, but it will probably lead to greatness.

Richard Williams

music as a vehicle of expression was served by the more familiar such as "One in Ten" from "Tyler" and "Arms", where a combination of rhythm was overlaid with intercut with voluntary from the action, who performed vigorously on it.

by far the best moment
of performers of their
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David Sinclair

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Malcolm Hay

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181

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1900-1910
1910-1920
1920-1930
1930-1940
1940-1950
1950-1960
1960-1970
1970-1980
1980-1990
1990-2000
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2010-2020
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SPECTRUM

Photographs by John Harding

Putting the Houses in order

One of the marvels of the programme of repairs at the Palace of Westminster is the Lords' chamber, restored to its former glory in time for today's State opening of Parliament. Charles Knevitt, architecture correspondent, reports

When the Queen takes her place on the throne in the chamber of the House of Lords shortly before noon today the assembled peers, bishops, judges and several million television viewers will catch a glimpse of more than the usual display of tradition.

A team of craftsmen has been hard at work restoring the throne's magnificent canopy in time for the event, stripping away the painted layers to reveal A.W.N. Pugin's original design in oak, blue and gold. Six years of meticulous research by Mrs. Alexandra Wedgwood, from the original drawings by Pugin and Sir Charles Barry, his master, in the Royal Institute of British Architects' Drawings Collection, have produced a "working archive" which helped them in their task.

Sir Robert Cooke, special adviser to the Secretary of State for the Environment on restoration work at the Palace of Westminster, is particularly proud of this latest phase in the programme being carried out by the Property Services Agency (PSA).

The £1.25 million contract to repair the ceiling was completed last year. Heat and chemical attack had made the timber crumble and in 1980 one of the 40 ornamental bosses fell on to the red leather. Opposition benches, where Lord Shinwell had just left his seat.

Government scientists at the Building Research Establishment's Laboratory at Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, devised a method of consolidating the original carvings by using an epoxy resin.

Donald Insall & Associates, the architects brought in by the PSA, used many of the same materials, including Scots pine (supplied this time from Lord Cawdor's estate) for the carpentry and Canadian yellow pine for joinery and carvings. Three groups of carvers repaired more than 500 elements such as fretted ventilation panels, trophies and roses.

To complete the chamber, 23½ carat English gold-leaf beaten into an extremely fine film was toned down to match the other gilded parts of the restored ceiling. John Saunders, a surveyor and the PSA's project liaison officer, believes it should be good for at least another century. The main culprits in its decay were the gas chandeliers which used to hang from the ceiling.

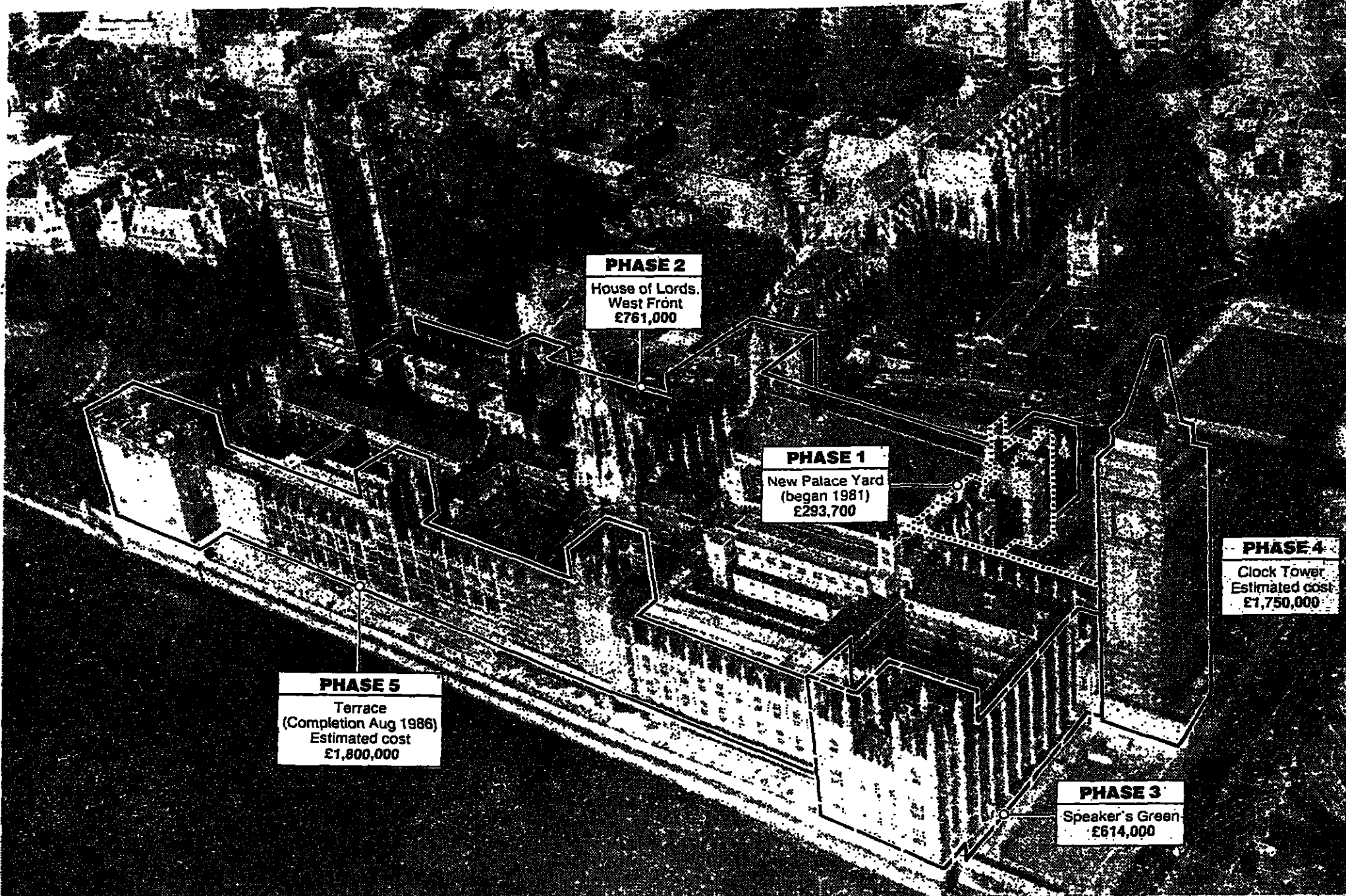
The gallery opposite the throne, complete with its original clock, will be restored next. The ceiling of the Peers' Lobby is already cloaked in boards and scaffolding while it is being restored. If it were not for the tedious intrusion of 10 rows of television lights in the chamber — a "temporary" measure — their lordships could be said to be keeping their house in good order, under the watchful and knowledgeable eye of Lord Gibson, chairman of the arts committee.

There is an admirable — although misplaced — reticence among the peers to seek funds for necessary work which might be misinterpreted as squandering taxpayers' money. Had it not been for Lord Shinwell's near miss it is unlikely that they would now be secure under a new roof. Special funds were approved for the ceiling's restoration but other work continues out of an annual budget of about £10 million administered by Wynn Lewis, the parliamentary works officer.

"As well as new building projects, major maintenance schemes and general building maintenance, this sum also covers the provision and maintenance of furniture and equipment," he says. "It also includes utilities, such as fuel and water, rents, general cleaning services, administration costs and consultants' fees".

The sum is not large given that the palace covers eight acres, 11 courtyards, 100 staircases, 1,100 apartments and two miles of passageways. Part of it will shortly be contributed to the new premises across Bridge Street (by Sir Hugh Casson) and £300,000 is spent in annual rent for property outside the palace. Fifty non-industrial and 125 industrial staff are employed as direct labour by the PSA, but about two-thirds of all work is done by private contractors.

More than 1,000 peers and MPs use the palace and work goes on around them when it can. About 3,500 people visit the building on a normal working day, and the Lords' chamber used to have a million visitors a year. During the summer the main kitchen was overhauled, a relatively mundane task, which led to inevitable complaints about noise from those attending to parliamentary business (or asleep in their rooms) at all times of the day and night. Wynn Lewis



Running repairs: phasing and cost of stonework repair, restoration and conservation at the Palace of Westminster since 1981



James McGillick, joiner, working on the throne in the Lords' chamber (left); Charles Barry's design of 1836; restored stones awaiting replacement

MILESTONES IN THE GRAND DESIGN

1834: Fire destroyed the old palace except for medieval Westminster Hall, the crypt of St Stephen's Chapel and some lesser buildings on the night of October 18, while crowds clapped and cheered. Barry, returning by coach from Brighton, saw the sky lit up and visited the scene.

1835: An architectural competition for a new building was announced in June. Designs had to be in either the Gothic or Elizabethan style. In November 97 entries were submitted and five commissioners — the Committee of Taste — were given three months to examine the 1,400 drawings.

1836: Barry's late-Gothic design was chosen in February and he received the commission and prize money of £1,000. The architect was 40 that year; Pugin, his assistant responsible for the Gothic detail inside and out, was 23.

1847: House of Lords occupied new chamber.

1850: House of Commons occupied new chamber.

1852: Death of Pugin. Main parts of the new palace completed. The royal entrance, 50ft high, first used by Queen Victoria.

1858: Clock tower completed.

1860: Victoria tower completed. The total cost of building and furnishing was less than £3 million. Death of Barry.

1934: First major repair programme.

1941: Chamber of the House of Commons destroyed in a German bombing raid on the night of May 10. The Palace was damaged more than 12 times during the war.

1950: Rebuilt House of Commons chamber opened to designs of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

1973: Completion of underground car park under New Palace Yard.

1981: Long-term refurbishment commenced, including restoration of stonework and the ceiling of the House of Lords chamber.

1985: Formal unveiling of Big Ben clock face on June 5. Removal of scaffolding started on October 28.

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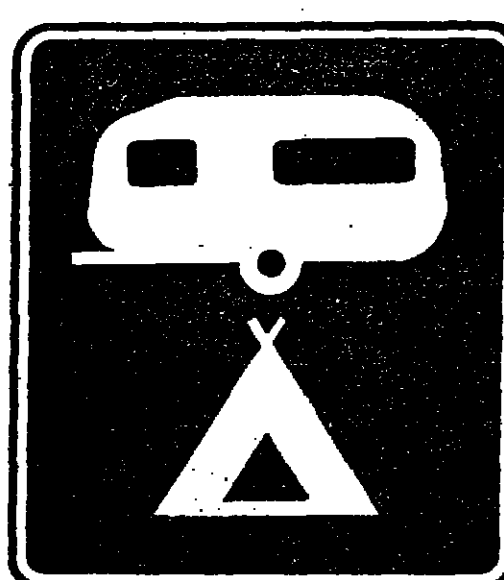
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2 Seclusion (6)
3 Pavement edge (4)
4 Load again (8)
5 Enlightenment (8)
6 Drag (3)
7 Sailgun (2,3,4,4)
8 Preceding period (3)
9 Flashily fashionable (8)
10 Put at risk (8)
11 Pack (4)
12 Obstruct (6)
13 Highly emotional (6)

DOWN
1 Harden by heat (4)
2 Round garnet (9)
3 Ground (5)
4 Chooses (5)
5 Actual (4)
6 Belligerent (5)
7 Belladonna (10)
8 Carrying out (5)
9 Group vocabulary (5)
10 Muslim messiah (5)
11 Deceiver (9)
12 Means (4)
13 Brake block (4)
14 Malice (5)
15 Fireplace (5)
16 Worth (5)
17 Weak (4)
18 Obligated (4)

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Referee in the love match

Help from the Marriage Guidance Council is not confined to married couples, nor to preventing divorce; and it is called upon more than ever, as Sue Pilkington reports.

Almost 50 years after it was founded, the Marriage Guidance Council is more in demand than ever. In London alone there is a waiting list of 600 - a pattern reflected throughout the country.

In 1984-85 the council's 170 branches dealt with 41,000 cases, an 11 per cent increase on the previous year. Yet anyone who thought the council dealt only with married partners would be very wrong.

"You don't stop living just because your marriage fails," says Renate Olins. "There is life after divorce, and it's important to try and help people live it as happily as possible."

Coming from someone who has been a marriage guidance counsellor for 18 years and is now director of the organization's largest agency in London, advice on how to live with a broken marriage seems like a contradiction.

However, the findings of a recent report based on clients' responses to counselling show that as many as 50 per cent eventually separate or divorce; something the Marriage Guidance Council does not consider a failure.

As Renate Olins says: "We're not some funny, woolly-cardiganed, well-meaning but rather narrow little organization concerned with marriage. Our role has expanded dramatically. Twenty years ago when people split up they stopped coming to marriage guidance because they felt failures. We now see people before they get married, when they are uncertain whether to do so. In London, these make up a third of our clients."

"We still see the traditional group, people whose marriages are clearly ending or may have already ended, who still have difficulties and agonies they want to resolve, who are still tortured by why it happened. Just because you get a divorce, it doesn't mean the marital relationship goes away."

It's not just those either contemplating or already in a marital situation who need help. The Marriage Guidance Council has spread its wings to include couples who are living together and will even counsel homosexuals and lesbians who are in a serious, one-to-one relationship.

All of which seems a far cry from the original aim of the first Marriage Guidance Council, established in 1937 by a small group of clergy, magistrates, doctors and social workers in response to growing concern about the increasing divorce rate. The figure was then rising to 7,000 divorces a year. In 1983, there were 150,000.

"We have never seen ourselves as a campaigning body whose only aim is to prevent divorce," insists Renate Olins. "I think we've always tried to help people lead happier lives. Forty years ago it was easier to believe that by maintaining a marriage you were in fact achieving this. Society at large wanted a more permissive and open way of getting married and divorced. By taking on board people living together, we recognize that the run-up to marriage is just as important as marriage itself. You don't suddenly step over the threshold into a state of grace called marriage."

The role of counsellor is enormous, particularly in a preventative sense. Renate Olins says: "I am convinced that if a lot of people had sought marriage guidance before they got married, they would not be in the divorce statistics now."

"Many who come to us before marriage are trying to find a way of ending the relationship and if we can help them do that as painlessly as



Wendy Hole

GUIDELINES

1. Counsellor meets client for first hour's session, often knowing little more than client's name.
2. Counsellor explains how the organization works and discusses money. Client is asked whether he/she can afford to make a voluntary contribution. It is not a fee. In London, a counselling session costs about £15. Most people contribute towards this. Some people can afford nothing. No one is denied the service.
3. Client given time to talk.
4. Counsellor suggests meeting half a dozen times and discusses whether client wishes to continue. No hard and fast rules. Some people feel a need to continue meetings for a year, maybe longer.
5. Women are generally first to seek advice. They then begin bringing their partners with them, often as early as the second interview.
6. Ending needs careful handling. A counsellor must not foster endless dependency. Clients seek permission for further meetings and many find it easier to stop if they know the door has not been closed.

possible it's our best hope of lessening the divorce figures."

So does the Marriage Guidance Council openly advocate living together as a good preparation for marriage? "Maybe, if it's a serious 'we'll live together for a year or so'. But mostly it's drifted into, with a set of clothes, a suitcase, one or two books. My fear is that with a lot of couples this dwindles into marriage. I'm 33, we've been living together for six years, and if I leave him what else will I find?"

Counselling, she says, is about trying to raise people's self-esteem, convincing them it's all right not to be married, not to have a partner. Ironically, however, the society which kicked against the traditional idea of marriage and gave young people the so-called freedom of the permissive age, still has a long way to go before accepting this.

"Marriage has become a much more complicated relationship to sustain," she says. "The more choice you have the more decisions you have to make and the more potential for failure there is. Whether or not to have babies, when to have them, it's a difficult balancing act."

One of the crucial changes in recent years has come about in women's sexual awareness. They expect more from their partners," says Renate Olins. "And they are often disappointed as men have

always traditionally been assumed to be when their partner does not come up to expectations. The Pill has made it likely that more married women are having affairs."

Testimony to the importance of sex in people's lives can be seen in the number of Marital Sexual Therapy Clinics which the Marriage Guidance Council has opened. There are some 40 attached to agencies up and down the country. Counsellors with additional training in sex therapy can help couples whether they are married or not.

People are also prepared to talk about child abuse and incest. "I don't think there's any more of it," says Renate Olins. "But, like homosexuality, discussion of it has been suppressed in the past. An even more recent breakthrough is the number of married people who have become aware over the years that they are homosexual and are now prepared to talk to us about it."

She is concerned, however, about the survival of the service. The Home Office grant for the Council's administrative headquarters at Rugby, which pays for tutors and training, was £864,540 - £80,000 less than was asked for.

Most counsellors are unpaid, but each local Marriage Guidance Council has to raise its own running costs from local

MOVING TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING

Sharon, 31, formerly a full-time housewife, now working part-time in a local shop, and Tony, 34, a long-distance lorry driver, Sharon says: "I started going to Marriage Guidance three years ago. I was frightened that my marriage would break down completely. I wasn't quite sure what Marriage Guidance could do, but it seemed worth a try. The counsellor just let me talk but she also asked a lot of questions. She told me I was quite aggressive and a bit frightening. At first that shook me. I don't think I said much but I thought about it a lot."

Tony says: "Sharon told me what the counsellor said. 'She's quite right' I told her. I hadn't been interested in Sharon's counselling sessions until then. I thought the counsellor would be on her side. But I got quite interested and went along too."

"I think," says Sharon, "we understand ourselves better now. We don't go for counselling any more but I still sometimes write to my counsellor. And I know we could always go back if we needed to."

Margaret, 43, computer systems analyst, with two teenage sons, now divorced from Derek, 44, brand manager in a large public company, Margaret says: "When I first went to Marriage Guidance I thought I had a sex problem. With hindsight I think that's what I wanted to believe. The first counselling session was the hardest. It's very painful to hear yourself admit to a situation that's causing you so much unhappiness."

Margaret's counsellor helped her in two important ways. "Firstly, she made me aware of my own strengths. She boosted my self-confidence by showing me I was an attractive, intelligent and competent person. Secondly, she enabled me to keep my options open and not to take up an intransigent position with my husband."

Margaret's contact with her counsellor continued at intervals over a couple of years until the divorce hearing was over. "It helped me enormously. I read recently about the financial difficulties Marriage Guidance is facing. I was quite angry. It's a short-sighted attitude."

Judy Greengrass, a school nurse in Islington, has been a counsellor for seven years. She is 45, married with three teenage children and admits to running a family, working full-time and being a marriage guidance counsellor is a bit of a juggling act. Trained as a health visitor, a friend suggested marriage guidance. "I'd been married for 14 years and knew that working at a marital relationship was hard work."

She admits the work can be very draining. "You are dealing with very raw, negative emotions and there are times when you can't see the wood for the trees, when all seems to be confusion." At such times it's a great help to be able to turn to the in-service tutor, with whom counsellors meet once a term. In London there are weekly case discussion groups with a group leader.

"It's not a do-gooders, voluntary thing," says Judy Greengrass. "It's a professional service, a commitment. When you see that a couple's relationship has moved to a different position it can be very rewarding, very fulfilling."

African coconuts and spices to tempt in any tongue



Shona Crawford Poole

It seems a fair bet, or at least extremely likely, that the longest word for ice cream in any language belongs to Swahili. Translated freely, *chakula kizima na vitu vingine kwa lugandishwa kwa baridi* becomes something along the lines of delicious food made from milk and all sorts of things and kept cold.

I have been keeping a lookout for additions to my Swahili vocabulary ever since I got carried away when filling in an office questionnaire inquiring about the language skills of the staff. In an attempt to compete with the racier accomplishments of solid Times men who doodle in Greek anagrams I offered conversational Swahili. It was rather a large claim to make on the strength of a few sociable phrases like "bring a cold beer for the bwana", and "I'll have the same again".

My shaky grasp of the tongue has been strengthened of late by additions acquired in the kitchens of Ann Humphries, who is one of the very few cooks on the Kenya coast, perhaps the only one who regularly puts Swahili food on her menus.

In the 15 months since she took over the kitchens of Seafarers, a fishing hotel and loafers nirvana on the beach at Watamu, Ann Humphries has been building a high reputation for her authentic rendering of local dishes.

Like the Swahili language, the lingua franca of East Africa, the region's cooking displays the same mixed ancestry of Indian, Middle Eastern and African influences. Sweetly fresh fish and coconuts are distinctive ingredients, as are pungent spices from the islands of the Indian Ocean.

Two distinctive local implements are the *jika*, which is a small charcoal brazier used as both a stove and as an open grill, and the *kikamu*, which is a woven palm sieve for squeezing milk from grated coconut. But do not worry about finding fresh coconuts for the recipes which follow. Except when they are at their best, Kenyan cooks use dried and desiccated coconut too.

The Swahili word for chicken is *kuku*, pronounced cuckoo.

Swahili grilled chicken

- Serves eight
- 8 chicken joints
 - 900 ml (1 1/2 pints) chicken stock
 - 110g (4oz) butter
 - 450g (1lb) onions, sliced
 - 170g (6oz) desiccated coconut
 - 1 to 2 heads of garlic, peeled
 - 3 tablespoons ground turmeric
 - 1 teaspoon cloves
 - 10 cm (4 in) cinnamon stick
 - 400g (14oz) tin tomatoes
 - 2 tablespoons tomato puree
 - Salt
 - Juice of 1 lime

Simmer the chicken joints in the stock for 10 minutes, then drain them.

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the onions. Fry gently until the onions are tender and turning golden.

Combine the coconut and hot stock in a blender or processor and blend the mixture for two minutes. Strain and return the milk to the blender. Reserve the coconut. Add the garlic, turmeric, cloves and cinnamon to

the coconut milk and blend for about two minutes.

Stir about three-quarters of the spicy coconut milk into the pan. To the remainder add the tomatoes and tomato puree and blend before adding this mixture to the pan. Bring to the boil then add the partly cooked chicken and salt.

Blend the reserved coconut with 300ml (1/2 pint) of hot water and strain this second, thinner coconut milk into the pan. Simmer the chicken until it is cooked through and the spices have mellowed. To finish over charcoal, basting it frequently with the sauce. Serve separately.

Joyce MacDonald



Sieving, kikamu-style

- Zanzibar rice
- Serves six to eight
- 600ml (1 pint) hot water
 - 170g (6oz) desiccated coconut
 - 450g (1lb) basmati or long grain rice
 - 2 tablespoons oil
 - 10 whole cloves
 - 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
 - 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
 - 1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns
 - Salt

Put the hot water and desiccated coconut in a blender or processor. Blend the mixture for about 2 minutes. Let it stand for 10 minutes before straining off the milk and discarding the coconut.

Wash the rice in several changes of cold water then drain it. Heat the oil in a heavy pan and add all the spices. Fry the

spices briefly to release their flavours then add the rice, all at once, and turn it in the fat to coat each grain.

Add 450ml (1/2 pint) of the coconut milk to the pan. Bring to the boil, stir in the salt, reduce the heat to very low and cover the pan tightly. Cook the rice for about 10 minutes or until the liquid has been absorbed and each grain is tender and separate.

Tuna or any firm-fleshed fish can be used in this recipe.

- Tuna curry
- Serves eight
- 110g (4oz) butter
 - 120ml (4 fl oz) oil
 - 1 tablespoon cloves
 - 3 tablespoons coriander seeds
 - 2 teaspoons cumin seeds
 - 1 teaspoon black peppercorns
 - 1/2 teaspoon fenugreek
 - 10cm (4 in) stick cinnamon
 - 1 tablespoon mustard seed
 - 680g (1 1/2 lb) strong onions, sliced
 - 1 tablespoon chopped hot chillies
 - 1 to 2 heads of garlic, peeled and chopped
 - 55g (2oz) fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
 - 4 tablespoons oil
 - 6 tablespoons garam masala
 - 3 tablespoons ground coriander
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons ground turmeric
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
 - 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
 - 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 110g (4oz) desiccated coconut
 - 800g (1 1/2 lb) tin tomatoes
 - 2 chicken stock cubes (optional)
 - Salt to taste
 - 2 tablespoons tomato paste
 - 2 teaspoons jaggery or soft brown sugar
 - 1.35kg (3lb) fresh tuna, cubed

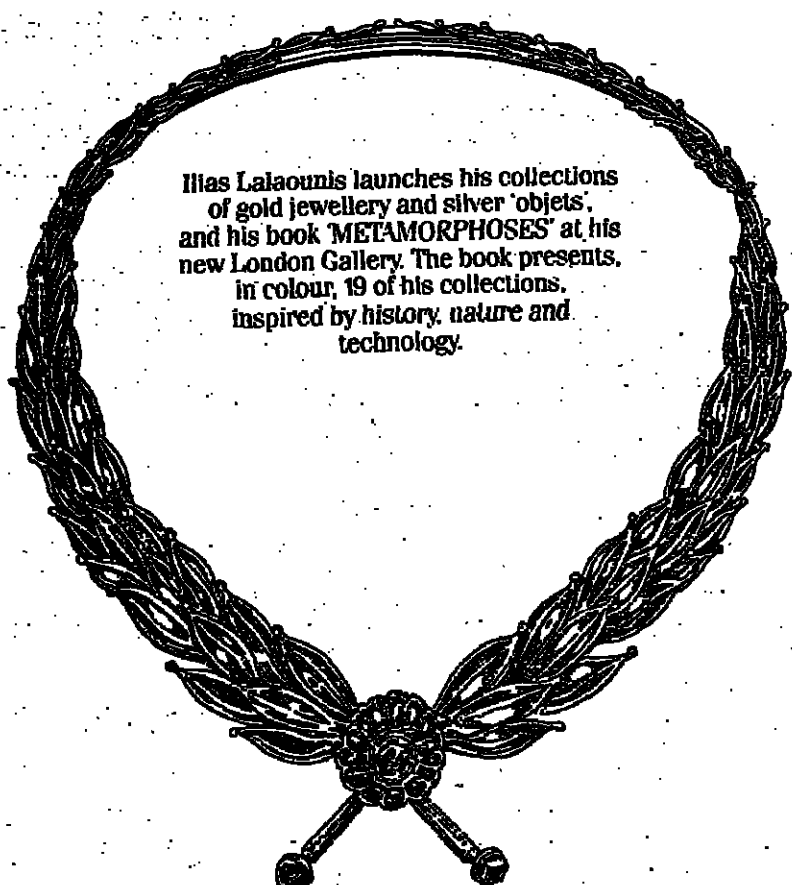
Heat the butter and oil in a large, heavy pan and add the cloves, coriander seeds, cumin, black peppercorns, fenugreek and cinnamon. Fry the spices for a minute to release their flavours and then add the mustard seed and onions. Fry the onions with the spices for about 15 minutes, or until they are tender and have begun to brown.

Put the chillies, garlic and ginger in a blender or processor together with the four tablespoons of oil and blend the mixture to a paste. Add this to the pan and fry for about two minutes. Now stir in the garam masala, ground coriander, turmeric, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg and cloves.

Combine the desiccated coconut with 300ml (1/2 pint) hot water and blend or process the mixture for about two minutes. Let it stand for 10 minutes before straining off the milk and discarding the coconut. Add the milk to the pan together with the tin of tomatoes and salt. Simmer the sauce for half an hour, or until the flavours have mellowed. Skim off the excess fat.

About 15 minutes before serving, stir in the tomato paste and sugar, then add the fish. Simmer until the fish is cooked. Serve with Zanzibar rice.

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Absent friends last longer

FIRST PERSON

I am knee-deep in holiday brochures this winter. Like anyone else who spent two rain-soaked weeks on holiday in Britain this summer, I'm insatiable draughty ankles with several kilos-worth of glossies to select that family trip next year, to anywhere hot.

Where to take your family is one problem. Quite another is the option of asking another family to share your fortnight. My advice is to please yourself about the first: beware the second. How many currently stable friendships are going to be fractured next summer, when the full truth of each others' previously disguised faults and foibles comes under the glare of a Spanish or Greek sun? How many previously inseparable couples are already seeing considerably less of each other since sharing two weeks on the Aegean this August?

It all sounds so tempting, especially after that third glass of wine on one of those dark winter evenings. You push back the kitchen chairs just a little after the lasagne takes its toll on your waistline. Before you know where you are, one of you has said it. "Why don't we all..." It is at that particular point that the most rapid kind of thought process is required. Teetotalers or abstemious car-drivers are best at this: rapid, regretful, honest-sounding, non-hurtful excuse.

The partner of the excuse-giver is then perfectly free to protest and express annoyance. The main thing is that he or she should not win the argument.

It is as much to protect friends from the full force of your own family's group personality as it is to dodge the other family's that such ventures are to be shunned. We once shared

a French villa with a couple who had been dithering on the brink of a divorce for some time. Every night in the small hours when their baby yelled, the father was dispatched downstairs on his swilling mission to boil milk, swear and generally crash the pans around in the kitchen directly beneath our bedroom. That kind of thing could have driven a large wedge between some couples. In our case it only woke me up to be reassured that our infants had passed that stage.

Their other children turned out to be very faddy eaters. Ours would welcome bricks if they were buttered. Shared cooking was awkward and temper-testing but I only once took notice of the other family's wrinkled noses when I had (accidentally) generously sweetened their custard with salt.

That these parents divorced fairly soon after this holiday leaves me with the thought that they may have been finally depressed at our family at its quarrelsome, argumentative, door-banging best. Even if the adults get along fine, it can be each others' children who will rouse an inordinate amount of muttered tight-lipped excuses to escape to the bedroom.

A jointly shared villa and the evils of a shared kitchen with all that controlled hissing and wrist-twisting is much worse than a shared hotel. In the latter you can at least have the good sense to arrange not to bump into each other until dinner. And if someone else is banging down your meals on the tables you will be more relaxed than

having to spend your mornings shopping in a foreign tongue and out of one kitty for food to accommodate two gannets and three delicacies who demand Kellogg's Frosties and crispy bacon in a hot climate.

Apart from appetites, there are minor details like time-keeping to drive you apart. Spending what seems like the entire holiday having to apologise for being your statutory half-hour late is as privately infuriating as it must be to rush to get ready only to be kept waiting.

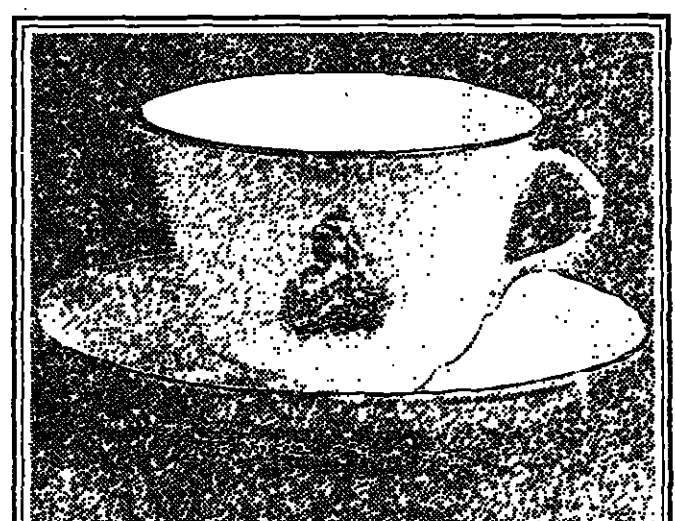
Yet razor-sharp punctuality, by that nasty quirk of nature, will always be attracted to the lackadaisical or just plain disorganized.

If all this advice comes too late there is still one way out of the mire. Get the latest *Thomson Small and Friendly* brochure and turn to page 47, and the Hotel Galeon in Majorca's Puerto de Pollensa. They reveal: "...the treasure that this Galeon holds isn't in Spanish doubloons of yore but in the priceless sense of humour unveiled in the owner - who never ceases to surprise and entertain his guests". With any luck you will all be so busy hating mine host that you will have no time to scrap among yourselves.

Vivien Tomlinson



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PURE INDIA TEA



THE TIMES DIARY

Stonewall Stonehouse

John Stonehouse, the former Postmaster-General who was jailed for three years for theft, fraud and deception has found a new job: in the security business. He has joined a firm called Guestguard in London, which specialises in safes for hotels and homes. "Yesterday Stonehouse said from his Maida Vale home: 'Where did you get your information from?' He confirmed he was with Guestguard but refused to be drawn on his new job over the telephone. Guestguard's managing director Anthony Hadfield was equally reticent, at first refusing to disclose his name. He would only say the company was registered last month. 'You obviously think you've got a story. We don't want anything detrimental written.' The Australian-sounding Hadfield did say he would meet me along with Stonehouse, 'and I'll have a tape recorder'."

The case against

Perhaps, now the government will heed repeated warnings that its new Crown Prosecution Service is bound for disaster unless it offers participating lawyers far better pay and conditions. John Timmons, president of the 600-strong Prosecuting Solicitors' Society which has made those warnings, states in a letter to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Heatherington, that in view of the salaries proposed by the Treasury, he has "given careful consideration to (his) personal position" and has "decided that (he) will not take an appointment within the Crown Prosecution Service". He will retire less than a month before the service starts in April.

Amnesty International's latest successful rescue? The release of 100 canteen trays secreted in forgotten corners of their London HQ. Mission accomplished, the hunt is now on for salpitos, pepper pots and a microwave soufflé dish.

Non-slip

Jack Slipper, the former Flying Squad chief who failed to bring Ronnie Biggs back from Rio, tells me he is considering taking out an injunction against the BBC film based on Anthony Delano's book "Slip-Up". Filming on location started in Portugal yesterday. Slipper says he has briefed his solicitor and counsel. The BBC says it has made certain changes to the script after seven hours of meetings with Slipper, but he is still far from satisfied. Journalist Colin McKenzie, "the man who discovered Ronnie Biggs", is also said to be "exceptionally unhappy" with the TV script, written by Keith Waterhouse. In the film, McKenzie is played by Nicholas Le Prevost; Jeremy Kemp is Jack Slipper; and Ian McEwan, the then editor of the *Daily Express*, is played by Fulton Mackay.

Chewy

There has, I gather, been something of a row between the new Employment Secretary, Lord Young, and his senior civil servants. Despite their repeated objections, he has apparently decided to rename the extended Youth Training Scheme which begins next year The Vocational Programme. The mandarins see this merely as an attempt by Young to put his own imprint on the scheme, and believe it will be interpreted elsewhere as a sign that the reasonably successful project has failed. Moreover, they argue, the initials TVP are already synonymous with textured vegetable protein.

BARRY FANTONI



"We got on really well with that couple until Gerald told them our holiday cost a fiver."

The show goes on

Latest instalment in the GLC's continued failure to pay PN Structures the £101,200 it is owed for erecting the Cultural Festival of India display at September's Brent Show. Tory councillors suspended yesterday's GLC meeting in protest at Ken Livingstone's refusal to answer their questions adequately. Livingstone, you will recall, arranged for the money to be paid through a grant to the festival in order to bypass ministerial permission, only to discover that the Indians, wary of political machinations, would not accept the money. Yesterday Livingstone claimed the delay in payment was because the Indian leaders had been attending religious festivities in India. And in a written answer he denied the GLC had entered into a written contract with PNS - even though PNS has a written undertaking from the GLC that it will foot the bill. "A disgraceful set of answers," says Tory councillor Rodney Gent.

PHS

Why Whitehall fails the inner cities

by Norman Strauss

Sir Robert Armstrong, Head of the Home Civil Service, recently made a rare public statement. He did not talk about tensions in the inner cities, the sharpness of the tools available for the Government's tasks, or proposals for reform of our uncoordinated system of administration. He did not even talk about the relationship between government and Civil Service.

These, he said, generally, were matters of government policy on which a Civil Servant should not take a public position. Instead, Sir Robert spoke of the traditions and culture of the public service. "There is an overall pattern and logic about the system as a whole; and it would be difficult to change particular conventions without putting the stability of other parts of the framework at risk."

Constitutional convention, neutrality, public service ethic: they are sonorous concepts all, but they immobilize. We shall not be moved, Sir Robert said; but the nation carries on downwards.

Civil Servants stay faithful not only to the state but the status quo. Mrs Thatcher and Sir Robert think the system is wonderful. And so, it seems, does the minister nominally in charge of telling Sir Robert how to lead the Civil Service machine - based, of course, on Sir Robert's non-leading advice. The minister is Richard Luce. He has made it clear that the Government admires the loyalty and neutrality of the

Civil Service and contemplates no structural change.

Mrs Thatcher needs new instruments and people. The problems facing the Government can be tackled only with insight, energy, openness, uncynical concern and dedication - attributes not often found in the upper reaches of Whitehall.

If no party reforms the machinery and the culture of the administrators, we can give up hope of change. The recent inner-city riots are horrifying examples of citizens who have sensed the need to take it upon themselves to attract the attention which they believe otherwise they will not receive. They will not stop while the system does not make contact with them.

But the system is Sir Robert and his top men and when Sir Robert retires in two years time, he will be succeeded by one of those men. The minister always hands things over to them, for that is what they are there for. But, no matter how good they might be, they cannot take the initiative, for that is to usurp the minister's position. So who does the new work? Who exhibits the human sensitivities and skills to reconnect the hopes of the alienated, the aggrieved and the unemployed with the state itself? Is it all to be done by MPs?

When such people visit Whitehall to see

the minister they are one among many pressure groups. Their views will be recorded and "balanced" conventionally by administrators for the minister's consideration. A fresh path through the options that have been gathered may be presented but, far too often, no lateral jumps will be made to recast the problem.

Three reforms would make for very much better government: political appointees installed alongside all permanent secretaries; a full time senior inner cabinet to adapt strategies and policies; to maintain coherence and to innovate; free access by governments to all their predecessors' papers.

Meanwhile, the only people who create new policies and imbue them with coherence are opposition parties - but only while they are out of office. As soon as they gain power departments take over and do it their way. The "neutral" policy officials do not adapt the policies and recreate cabinet-wide coherence as events unfold, for that is the task of politicians. So the decline in the government's authority gathers pace.

The inevitable result is that both leaders and led seem to lack self-confidence, unable to influence their own destinies. A sense of this helplessness may be why voters are drifting from the Tories.

The author is a former special adviser to Mrs Thatcher and a former member of the No 10 Policy Unit.

Geraldine Norman on some precedents for the recent spectacular art theft

Art gets curiously under the skin. Like religion, it deals with very deep levels of the human spirit and, again like religion, it attracts a lot of eccentrics and fanatics.

Nothing demonstrates this better than the history of great art thefts, of which the recent haul at the Musée Marmottan in Paris is the latest sensational example. Five armed men held tourists and attendants at gunpoint while they stole the painting after which the Impressionist movement was named, Monet's "Impression Soleil Levant", and eight other works, making their getaway in broad daylight. A week later nothing is known of the identity of the thieves or their motivation.

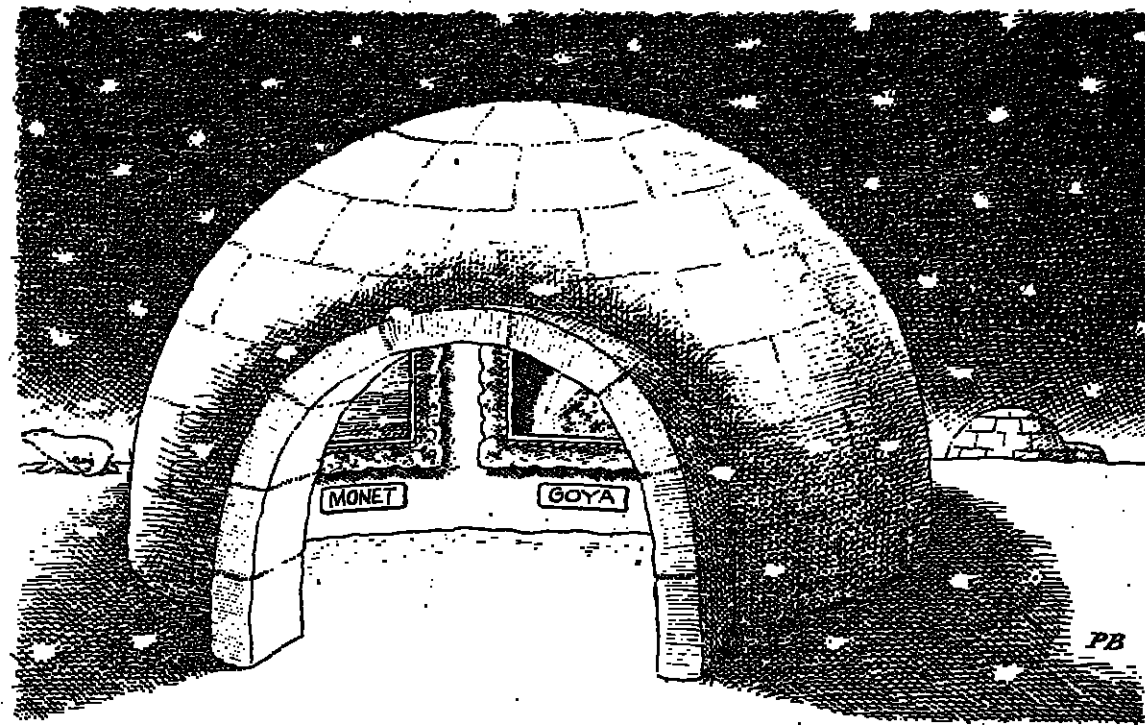
What makes the theft unusual is the fame of the paintings involved. Price tags running into many millions may be dreamt up for them, but basically they are unreplaceable. On the open market they would be instantly recognized. Most art thieves are, of course, financially motivated but generally they go for lesser works unlikely to be recognized before the resale proceeds have been pocketed.

Three possible motives for the theft are being put forward. The first is a criminally rational one, to extort a ransom for the pictures from the museum or art lovers at large: the fact that the paintings were not insured makes this unlikely. Secondly, they may have been taken by political activists who may make some demand on the French government as a condition for their return. And thirdly, there is the ever-intriguing theory that a passionate but unscrupulous collector commissioned the theft of the paintings so that he might privately own and enjoy them. The fact that the thieves' selection of paintings was clearly planned, not a haphazard grab, lends credence to this theory. There are precedents for all three, and several variants.

"Inimaginable" was the banner headline in *Le Matin* in 1911 over the report that Leonardo's Mona Lisa had been stolen from the Louvre. France's frontiers were closed, ocean liners were ransacked as the police followed innumerable false leads; Apollinaire, the avant-garde poet, was arrested and Picasso was interrogated.

In November 1913 Vincenzo Peruggia, an Italian carpenter who had worked in the Louvre, tried to sell the painting to an art dealer in Florence, claiming that he had stolen it to revenge Napoleon's rape of Italian art treasures. Luigi Cavenaghi, known as "the prince of restorers" and the then director of the Vatican art gallery, was sent to check its authenticity on behalf of the Italian government. Entering the room he is reported to have cried instantly: "E lei, e lei!" - "It is she, it is she!" It was subsequently reported that Peruggia was commissioned to steal the painting by a South American who had secretly sold six high-class copies of the picture to American collectors while it was missing.

Another extraordinary multiple theft concerned Van Eyck's altarpiece in the St Bavon cathedral in



The missing masters: where are they now?

Ghent, known as the "Adoration of the Lamb". In 1934 a thief removed a double-sided panel from the altarpiece and wrote to the bishop demanding a ransom of one million francs. When the money was not forthcoming he sawed the panel carefully in half, parked "St John the Baptist" in a railway left-luggage section and sent the bishop the ticket with another ransom note. Long afterwards the thief confessed on his deathbed but died before revealing the whereabouts of the second half, depicting "The Just Judges".

During the Second World War the altarpiece was sent to the south of France for safe keeping but was

nevertheless stolen by the Germans and subsequently found by an American officer down a disused salt mine in Austria.

In 1961 Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington was stolen from the National Gallery in London. A ransom note arrived at Reuter's eight days after the theft demanding £140,000 for charity. Kempton Bunton, a 61-year-old unemployed lorry driver, returned the painting in May 1965 by leaving it in the left luggage section at Birmingham New Street station and sending the ticket to the *Daily Mirror*. He said he had been incensed with the Government because free television licences had not been granted to pensioners.



Mona Lisa and Rembrandt: unusual motives for their theft.

The *Times* was used as the vehicle for messages when Vermeer's "The Guitar Player" was stolen from Kenwood in 1974 by IRA sympathizers. First a strip of canvas was sent to the paper with a demand that Dolours and Marian Price, who were on hunger strike in Brixton prison, should be returned to Northern Ireland to complete their sentences. After a further threat that the picture would be "burnt on St Patrick's night with muchavoring about in the true lunatic fashion" was left in a London churchyard to be collected by the police.

The most stolen painting is Rembrandt's portrait of Jacob van Gheyn, in the Dulwich Picture Gallery. It was stolen and recovered in 1967, 1973 and 1981 but the highly professional thieves who broke in through a skylight and removed the portrait in 1983 have never been heard of again. Equally, the thieves who took Pieter Breughel's "Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery" from the Courtauld Gallery in 1982 have sunk without trace.

There may be something in the theory of mad collectors who commission thefts. A wealthy Greek olive oil manufacturer, Efthymios Moschachlaidis, was arrested for commissioning a theft from the Budapest Museum in 1983 but charges were subsequently dropped. The paintings, two Raphaels, two Tintoretcos and two Tiepols, were stolen in November 1983 and recovered in January 1984.

The Marmottan pictures could have gone to join the 18 paintings from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts taken in a very similar armed daylight robbery in 1982. That haul included important paintings by Corot, Millet and Delacroix as well as a Rembrandt landscape and a Rubens portrait. Maybe they will turn up again one day.

The author is a freelance correspondent for *The Times*.

Sinn Fein centre stage - in which role?

The prediction by Gerry Adams that the British and Irish governments are preparing to ban the IRA's political wing has already been dismissed as rhetorical excess designed to raise Republican morale ahead of an Anglo-Irish agreement. When they finally meet, Margaret Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald may yet disappoint him.

Adams is a notably cautious man, however, and it is at least clear that both governments are reviewing their approach to Sinn Fein. Proscription, or a similar measure, would obviously make any Anglo-Irish deal tougher and more security-oriented than has been forecast so far. But it might also signal a more important change. The circulation of such ideas is a clue that the issue may dominate the summit's aftermath.

Since 1981, British policy in Northern Ireland has been based on three objectives: maintenance of the union with Britain as long as the majority wants it; the creation of provincial administration involving both communities assumed to be represented by the Social Democratic and Labour Party; and the suppression of terrorism. Tom King, the new Secretary of State, reiterated these tenets in his speech yesterday.

In 1981, all attempts to meet the last two objectives have been overshadowed by the arrival of the Provisional Sinn Fein as a long-term political force. In the last

British general election, just over 100,000 people voted for candidates explicitly supporting the IRA.

Serious consideration of a ban indicates two possible views of the future held by the British government. The SDLP's vote has suffered by comparison with the growth of Sinn Fein's. A ban might create conditions in which the party of moderate and constitutional nationalism might recover lost ground and even advance. But that outcome would by no means be guaranteed.

The second possibility is more intriguing. The government, assuming that the summit fails to clear up all its problems, may be forced to shift its policies away from a historic reliance on the SDLP.

The SDLP, and to a lesser extent the government in Dublin, needs to invest in a new Anglo-Irish body with as much "unifying" potential as possible: their supporters want reassurance that progress, however subtle, towards reunification is being made. In this respect, the decisive imperative operating on the SDLP has not changed since the Sunningdale talks of 12 years ago.

Such stresses applied to delicate new constitutional mechanisms have a wearily familiar ring to them. A new study of British policy in Northern Ireland over the past 20 years reminds us of the strains which similar SDLP demands placed on the fledgling Council of Ireland. The

undefined powers by the Sunningdale agreement, became the focus of clumsy attempts to merge northern and southern administration in relatively uncontroversial areas. The authors quote internal government documents which give brutal descriptions of how these attempts foundered on practical realities.

Much of the current Anglo-Irish negotiations have been devoted to avoiding the traps into which Sunningdale fell. But precedent and a ceaseless flow of leaks about existing talks suggest that no amount of ingenuity will overcome the fundamental incompatibility between the SDLP's traditional intransigence and an equally traditional unionist resistance.

If a new arrangement did lead to any sea-change in attitudes they are extremely unlikely to happen fast enough to save the SDLP from further erosion by Sinn Fein. The forthcoming summit, now likely to take place in late November, may produce concrete results in the form of new bodies and better security coordination, but the British government will still be faced with this dilemma.

The whole issue begs the question of the government's attitude to the SDLP. To put that question in its starkest form: is it worth the government's time and effort to design policies aimed at keeping it alive? The SDLP, whose annual conference meets this weekend, has

always been relatively weak on the ground. This has been disguised by the solo skills of its leader, John Hume, and the fact that there are no rivals for the job of representing constitutional nationalism. One British minister recently described the party as a "busted flush".

If the SDLP fails to make a role for itself, the British government will in due course find itself bypassing the SDLP and dealing direct with Sinn Fein. That could take the form of tougher confrontation or - less probable under this government - direct talks. Either solution would at least remove the government from the bind it has found itself in since Sinn Fein began to win seats - particularly in local councils where unionists are expected to sit with elected Sinn Fein members, and where those members are refused communication with the government ministers and officials.

There are many reasons why governments south or north of the border may pull back from proscription, such as public reaction at home or abroad or the difficulties of enforcement. But the fact that the question has been raised is a portent of things to come - of the difficulties which now overshadow the diplomatic activity of the next few weeks.

The British State and the Ulster Crisis by Paul Bew and Henry Patterson, Verso Books, £4.95.

George Brock

Peter Kellner

Freedom pressed from both sides

"Negative reporting... journalists from other countries interfering in our affairs... the media should help to promote constructive relations..."

Last week I heard that kind of language from two quite different sources. At a symposium in Thessalonika on press and democracy it came from Eastern European delegates. Returning to my hotel to inhale my daily fix of news from the BBC World Service, I heard it from the South African president, P. W. Botha, justifying new restrictions on foreign journalists. It seemed almost as if Moscow and Pretoria had decided to join forces against the western media.

The immediate and obvious lesson is that tyranny is tyranny, and the rest of us should be grateful for the freedoms we possess. But scratch beneath the surface and the picture becomes more confused.

Item. A few years ago a minister proposed this toast to a group of local journalists: "To our democratic institutions and the restrictions on the freedom of the press which may become necessary to preserve them." That sub-Orwellian remark was made not in Warsaw or Prague but in Dublin - by the then minister for posts and telecommunications, Conor Cruise O'Brien.

Item. One speaker at last week's symposium lamented that too few journalists in his country understood that part of their function was to write what they see to be the truth, rather than what they are told to say from above. "Journalists should be ruled by the law and not by man," he said. This classic statement of western liberal principle comes not from Britain or the US but from a leading Chinese journalist.

Item. A paper recently decided to publish a report on Aids. When the health minister was approached, he refused to help. The magazine went ahead with its story and described the minister as "behaving like an ostrich with his head in the sand and his arse in the air - which is not a good posture when there is Aids about."

No, that was not Barney Hayhoe suffering at the hands of *The Mirror*, but Hungary's health minister, being attacked by Budapest's *Heti Világhíradó* (World Economic Weekly).

Such examples from both sides of the capitalist/communist divide could be multiplied. What the Thessalonika symposium demonstrated was that the polarization of world media into "free" and "unfree" cannot be sustained as simply as it is used to be. Of course, the incomplete freedoms of the West are still far superior to the incomplete authoritarianism exercised in the Soviet bloc, but both forms of incompleteness need to be recognized.

What seems to be happening is a curious trend towards common professional attitudes. Soviet bloc journalists are discovering a new freedom to criticise government actions - albeit within very strict limits. At the same time many western journalists are being set for their work.

Given time, there seems no reason why the two will not converge. Journalists the world over would be half-free, able to "expose" certain strands of inquiry but careful not to embark on "negative" or "unconstructive" inquiries.

Some characteristics of that twilight approach to press freedom already exist, not least here in Britain. On occasion, as in the *Real Lives* row, the battle between freedom and suppression is joined explicitly. But the greatest degree of censorship is performed by journalists themselves.

That subservience can be to proprietors or governments or the BBC board of governors. The freedoms enjoyed by newspaper owners do not always extend to the journalists they employ. Naturally this argument grated with western journalists at the symposium when it came from Bulgarian and Romanian representatives. But on this point, if little else, they are right.

The complexities of creating a truly free media are considerable. Sometimes the task is contemplated merely as a comfortable debating point to be discussed at leisure in mature, relatively prosperous democracies. But two of the most compelling arguments for the practical virtues of free expression came from Third World speakers at the symposium.

Vikram Rao, who was imprisoned in India in the mid-1970s during Mrs Gandhi's state of emergency, argued that today's apparent freedoms in India should be treated warily. "Freedom of expression has been exploited by the newspaper barons to promote their industrial interests by pressurizing the government to extract a variety of business concessions."

An equally practical lesson in the need for unfiltered reporting was provided by Miguel Shapiro, an Argentinian who left his country and is now a senior television reporter in Venezuela. Of his mother country he said: "During nine painful years the radio, the press and television talked about a non-existent country: a country playing football, eating good beef and dancing an endless tango."

"What the press did not say was that while the country became impoverished a few generals were getting rich in an orgy of corruption and foreign debt. That is why, when a mediocre general decided to launch a military adventure in the Malvinas Islands, the country supported him blindly."

It was pity that no Latin American - or Indian or Western European - newspaper proprietors were invited to the symposium. They would have been challenged to defend their corner just as the East European speakers were, and quite right too. Building a truly free press is not an easy matter, and should not be reduced to a shouting match across the iron curtain.

Meanwhile, I must find out which KGB man is acting as Botha's public relations adviser. And if I am allowed to do so, I shall tell you.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

moreover... Miles Kington

You will meet a long, dark evening

Today, a horoscope with a difference. All these predictions are guaranteed true - we challenge you to prove they are wrong! Aries. You have a close friend who has secretly been passionately in love with you for many a long month. Today, he or she will finally decide to unveil his or her true feelings to you. He, or she, phones you at work to declare her, or even has, undying feelings. However, you are out at a long business lunch and he changes his mind. Or she changes hers. Later, it gets dark earlier than you think.

Taurus. At about 6 am this morning, you had a dream in which the Queen and you were walking down the main path at Sandringham. She said to you: "Between us, we could solve all the delays on British Rail's Southern Region." You said to her: "Never mind about that - what do you make of the new Booker Prize winner?" The Queen said: "Could you face broccoli again for supper this evening?" Later, you woke up without the faintest recollection of your dream. Even later, it is surprisingly dark at about 5 pm.

Gemini. A long-lost brother of whom you know nothing lands today from New Zealand looking for you. You pass him in the street, thinking as you do so: "I wish I had brought out my gloves". Later, he is surprised at how dark it gets.

Cancer. Someone you have not seen for 20 years goes on the Terry Wogan Show this week. Terry listens closely to what they say and displays surprise, amusement, amazement, pleasure, consternation, relief, embarrassment, mock humiliation and real humiliation, all in the first 20 seconds. While the programme is on you walk past a TV rental window but fail to notice your old friend, preoccupied as you are with what you will have for supper, dark though it is.

Leo. You hear, to your amazement, that someone is selling holidays in France for £5 a go. You are momentarily tempted to book one. However, you decide against it on the grounds that there must be a catch somewhere. This is a mistaken decision, because if you had taken it you would have met the person of your dreams, who not only has a large country estate in Northamptonshire, but is also interested in the rather odd hobby which you pursue yourself, and with whom you have never dared confess to anyone. It goes dark unusually early.

Virgo. An urban terrorist goes out today, determined to mow someone down at random in order to demonstrate the justice of his cause. He sees you and decides that you would make the perfect victim. Unfortunately, the catch on his grenade becomes stuck and he is forced to retire to his bed-sit, fuming. Just as he regains his bed-sit, the catch becomes unstuck and the hand grenade goes off. But the explosive is faulty and nothing is damaged except a mirror. Darkness falls a minute later.

Libra. Your exact double, who lives in Munich, goes into a haberdashery store and orders a very expensive pair of gloves. Later, they change their mind and fail to collect. In 1986 the Munich haberdashery goes on holiday to Britain and sees you in the street. He is about to fall on you and challenge you for the non-collection of a pair of gloves when he has a fit and dies. In the dark, he is not noticed for an hour and a half.

Scorpio. In the early morning you try to find Radio 4 to "only get the Danish radio news. Unbeknown to you, they are announcing an unexpected early lighting up time in Copenhagen.

Sagittarius. The Post Office delivers a surprise package announcing you have become a winner in a competition organized by Readers Digest. Unfortunately, they deliver it to the next door neighbour who throws it away. Later, he is taken by surprise by the early dark and bicycles home without lights, being run over by a juggernaut, though not badly.

Capricorn. Somebody you used to know quite well at school dies. *The Times* debates whether to print a brief obituary of them, and eventually decides against, on the grounds that there have been too many sociologists recently. It gets dark.

Aquarius. At about 10.32 am you will catch Legionnaire's Disease, but thanks to an amazing antibody you picked up on your last holiday but one, you will be spontaneously cured at about 10.47. Darkness falls miraculously at about 5.17.

Pisces. You use your credit card to make a purchase, but the girl writes down your number wrong, thus making the purchase absolutely free to you. Unfortunately, the credit card company copies the number down wrong and converts it back your real number. Later, darkness falls.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STAYING IN THE PARTY

Mr Neil Kinnock is struggling to put the problem of the new Union of Democratic Mine Workers to the bottom of the political agenda. After a weekend of wrangling about Labour's constitutional requirement that its members should belong only to unions recognised by the TUC, Mr Kinnock tried hard on Monday night to reassure members of the UDM. This rule had not, in fact, been used on any of a dozen opportunities in the past decade, he pointed out. Although the new body is banned from the TUC as a "breakaway" union and therefore cannot be affiliated to the Labour Party, individual UDM members had what amounted to Mr Kinnock's personal protection from expulsion. Mr Kinnock's advisers are busy backing up this message with the prospect of long procedural delays if any expulsion attempt is begun at local level.

Mr Kinnock's attitude is hardly surprising. It is easy to understand the Labour tacticians who argue that while criticism of Mr Scargill and Mr Hanton can be a positive advantage in the run up to an election, serious action against them would be catastrophic. To UDM members, however, Mr Kinnock's assurances fall far short of the comfort they require.

Mr Roy Linn and his men may be bitterly opposed to Mr Arthur Scargill and scornful of the TUC but they are mostly strong and loyal supporters of the Labour Party. They have a

direct influence on five key parliamentary seats in Nottinghamshire and by the time of the election many more could be added to that number. Yet they have heard at the weekend the words of Labour's employment spokesman, Mr John Prescott, who accepted the logic of the constitutional threat to their Labour Party membership.

They also know that in the past cases in which Mr Kinnock referred - including those expulsions for registration under the Conservative Industrial Relations Act in 1972 and 1973 - whole unions were expelled from the TUC and no-one had a serious interest in persecuting their members from the party. In the current case Mr Scargill and his supporters have a strong reason for striking back at their vicious opponents and using the threatened loss of Labour Party membership to drive them back into the fold. The UDM is not alone in knowing that unused constitutional devices have a special appeal to the new brand of Labour activists. It is a confident moderate who trusts that a potential procedural weapon against him will gather dust for ever.

Mr Kinnock is attempting to present the modern and moderate face of the Labour movement to an electorate that has shown itself strongly in favour of the ballot box. One half of the movement - the Labour Party - is pulling together much better now. The Liverpool militants, though unbowed, are blooded

nevertheless, and there is cautious expectation of more blows to come. The TUC, on the other hand, is in serious danger of falling apart - with the UDM problem piling on top of the threatened expulsions of the AEUW and EETPU for accepting state cash for elections. There is a strong prospect of a rival TUC group based on the ballot box and strongly opposed to Buggin's turn and picket line brutality.

If the TUC split can be avoided, if the UDM expulsions can be kept inside Labour's procedural labyrinth, Mr Kinnock's cautious tactics may well prove the best policy. But it must be increasingly unclear - even to those friends of the Labour movement who are quite happy to accept the institutional and financial links between party and unions - why the TUC should have a constitutional veto on Labour membership, a virtual closed shop agreement on membership of a political party.

If the TUC crack turns into schism and it collapses, Mr Kinnock must take care to see that the Labour Party suffers the least possible damage from the falling masonry. He must ensure that Labour is associated to the greatest extent with freedom and the least extent with oppression. No Labour leader likes the prospect of constitutional change. But the law books should perhaps be dusted off the Walworth Road shelves in case it is the lesser of two evils - electoral as well as real.

MANSLAUGHTER IS SERIOUS ENOUGH

Alain Mafart and Dominique Prieur have pleaded guilty to manslaughter - or "man's laughter" as one French newspaper prints it. The unwitting witicism may seem in doubtful taste: it is no laughing matter, after all, for the friends and family of Fernando Pereira, who died on board the Rainbow Warrior on the night of July 10. Yet *L'Affaire Greenpeace* has from the start had its comic as well as its tragic aspects. The fury of the French media and opposition at being deprived of a long drawn out murder trial, full of juicy revelations and insinuations, belongs on the whole among the former.

Some of the same newspapers and politicians, who last week were attacking the government for leaving its agents in the lurch, are now accusing it of conspiring to hush up the affair because the new defence minister apparently encouraged the accused to plead guilty to the lesser charge. Yet such advice was almost certainly in their own best interests since it is generally believed that sentence on this charge will be followed fairly swiftly by deportation to France.

Attacks on the New Zealand government for dropping the murder charge are similarly misplaced, even if Mr Lange's protestations of non-involvement are not fully convincing.

Leaving aside New Zealand's interest in extracting financial compensation ("ransom", as some French newspapers see it) from France, there were sound legal reasons for thinking that a murder charge might not stick.

This was not because the people in the dock did not themselves plant the explosives. One can be a murderer without striking the blow oneself, and these two persons have in fact now pleaded guilty to causing Mr Pereira's death. The difficulty would have lain in proving that any of those involved actually intended to kill anybody. Deplorable as it was, the attack was fairly obviously planned with a view to avoiding loss of life. Why else was it undertaken in Auckland harbour rather than at sea, where it would have been relatively easy to sink the boat with all hands without risking capture or detection? It was bad luck that Mr Pereira happened to be on board; and even then he was not killed by the explosion itself but drowned after going below to try to retrieve his cameras.

Manslaughter is still a serious crime, and there can be no doubt that the whole enterprise was both criminal and idiotic. It certainly achieved the exact opposite of its presumed objec-

tive, which was to thwart the campaign of opposition to French nuclear tests in the Pacific. It is almost incredible that anyone in authority in France really believes that objective could be achieved by such means.

There will presumably be no further judicial consequences, since the French Prime Minister has said that the agents should not be prosecuted because they were acting on orders. Those orders exactly we may never know. The head of the External Security Services has been dismissed, but whether for ordering the operation or for refusing to co-operate in the subsequent investigation is still not entirely clear.

Political responsibility has been taken by the former defence minister, M. Henu. He resigned, but has curiously since become something of a hero, being applauded at the Socialist party congress, re-elected to lead the party list in Lyon for the general election, and retaining his popularity with the armed forces. While the president and prime minister are left looking incompetent and shifty, and the Opposition remains uncertain how to exploit the affair without sounding unpatriotic, M. Henu may even turn out to be its main beneficiary.

MARCOS CALLS THE TUNE

It is understandable that the Reagan administration should derive some satisfaction from President Marcos's bid to call an early election. Was it not President Reagan himself who recently sent Senator Paul Laxalt on a personal mission to deliver "an extremely blunt message of warning" to Marcos about the mounting threat to democracy posed by the growing communist insurgency? Those who have observed the vulpine instinct for survival displayed by the Philippines' President during twenty years in power will be wary, however, of any claim that he is merely succumbing to external pressure.

The Philippines is of critical interest to any American administration. The country was once Washington's only colony and the United States has a continued concern that it should remain democratic and securely allied to the West. In the light of the expanding Soviet fleet in the former US naval base at Cam Ranh Bay, the Philippines is also of crucial strategic significance.

Subic Bay naval base and the Clark air base represent the two largest American military installations outside the United States. The agreement which governs the leasing of the two bases

extends to 1991, after which either government can terminate the arrangement by giving one year's notice. The nightmare which is gathering in the State Department and other circles is of a successful insurgency operation by the military arm of the outlawed Communist Party, the NPA, which would dislocate the Philippines from Western influence and pave the way for a more than willing Soviet presence - Cam Ranh Bay revisited.

The dilemma for US naval strategists is particularly acute. Subic Bay's deep and capacious harbour makes it ideal for allowing large numbers of warships to manoeuvre safely. Although contingency plans are said to exist for moving facilities to Guam, the Seventh Fleet would find itself cramped, and distant from the South China Sea and the vital oil lanes of the Pacific Basin region.

The parallels with Iran are all too apparent. How does one move against the autocrat without bringing the whole house down? Is an offer of elections too little, too late?

As long as Marcos remains in power, the NPA will continue to attract support. Communism finds fertile ground amid econ-

omic deprivation and the undoubted corruption of a ruling clique. In the past two years Marcos has displayed an obstinate tendency to bury his head in the sand. He believes the swelling insurgency to be a military problem which can be solved by purely military means. Marcos insists that the NPA is a straggling bunch of bandits and rebels. Yet they number more than 15,000 and are becoming increasingly mobile and organized. According to a report prepared for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, they could be on the verge of receiving assistance from the Soviet Union.

Washington is keen for the emergence of a non-communist alternative which can wash itself of Marcos's past, begin to "professionalize" an army in which morale is abysmal, and implement some of the economic reforms necessary to alleviate the frustrations of the business community. But it has to be hoped that the opposition parties can be inspired to a more positive focal point for unity than a mere dislike of Marcos. The president is still calling the tune. It would be stunning indeed if his "machine" failed to deliver in the end.

Teachers' results

From Mr John A. Grimer

Sir, I note that you add your voice to that of Sir Keith Joseph in flinging gratuitous insults at teachers in your leader of Friday, November 1, where you label them as an "under-performing and under-rewarded profession".

That teachers are underpaid is readily admitted by all parties to the current dispute, but what, please, is your evidence of their under-performance? Since the Second World War educational standards, measured by any objective yardstick, have steadily and appreciably risen. In addition teachers have taken on increasing, unpaid, "voluntary"

commitments which the Government now seeks to consolidate into their contracts after having eroded their remuneration over the past ten years.

In our small comprehensive school at Looe there is strong and committed membership of both the NUT and the NAS/UWT. Last year we were affected by five incidents of industrial action. Despite this, our examination results, already well above the national average, have shown still further improvement. I have quietly observed the most militant of our members of staff lean back towards ensuring that no real harm is done to the academic and social welfare of any pupil, nor to the ethos of this happy school.

Though no longer a member of either of these unions myself, I thoroughly support all the action they have taken.

I am now 63 years old and am in my twenty-ninth year at this school. I find it very sad to be approaching retirement in the bitter climate of the present dispute and deplore that a responsible newspaper like yours can dismiss the work of my colleagues and myself as "under-performance".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. GRIMER,
Deputy Head,
Looe School,
Sunning,
East Looe,
November 1.

Learning to live with drug problem

From Dr Colin Brewer

Sir, During recent professional visits to the USA I heard an increasing number of people who treat and study drug addiction agreeing privately, and sometimes publicly, with Sir Geoffrey Wilson (November 1) that the new Prohibition Era is proving just as unsuccessful in preventing drug abuse and just as damaging to the social and legal fabric as the old one was.

Sir Geoffrey is also right to emphasise the irrational distinction which most people make between "drugs" and alcohol, as if alcohol were somehow not a drug. (Tobacco is a drug too, of course, but in a very different class, since it has little effect on consciousness or behaviour.)

I become increasingly annoyed with the disproportionate fuss which the media and nearly all politicians make about "drug abuse" when the abuse of alcohol causes more anti-social behaviour and more deaths and hospital admissions among young people than all the illicit drugs put together. The "pushers" of alcohol cannot escape some of the blame for these events.

Drug use is not synonymous with drug abuse, and opiates, cocaine and marijuana have nothing like the potential for irreversible physical harm to the organs of the body that alcohol has.

Other societies have learned to live with their drugs as we have learned to live - all too dangerously - with ours. We had better learn from them, and quickly, because we are unlikely to eradicate the current taste for exotic drugs as we persuade people to stop eating exotic food or visiting exotic countries.

I suggest that much of our "drug problem" is just one aspect of a more generalised "youth problem". The proof of this is that many "drug addicts" either grow out of their addiction or join the ranks of the alcohol addicts, some of whom are prominent and - on their better days - highly-regarded citizens.

The sight of one bunch of users, pushers and addicts expressing horror at the morals and behaviour of another bunch is good for a cynical laugh, but as a basis for

public policy it is somewhat lacking in both coherence and credibility. Yours etc.

COLIN BREWER, Director,
Community Alcoholism Treatment Service,
Gordon Hospital,
Bloomington Street, SW1,
November 1.

From Sir John Stewart-Clark, MEP for Sussex East (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Your editorial (October 28) on the drugs trade rightly praises the Government, and Mr Mellor in particular, for its robust stance against traffickers in proposing a Bill on confiscation of their assets. But national leadership in this matter, however praiseworthy, is not sufficient on its own to cope with the problem of drug abuse - either at the level of the big-time traffickers or of prevention work with our young people.

Drug traffickers do not stop at frontier posts - and neither should we in our fight against them. We must, therefore, speak of international leadership and, in our own continent, talk of joint European action.

Mr Mellor's new Bill could indeed prove the foundation for European legislation on confiscation of assets; and the committee of enquiry into drug abuse set up by the European Parliament will be looking at all such aspects of law enforcement.

Equally, if our prevention work is to be really effective it needs to take place simultaneously in all western European countries, partly because of the free movement around Europe, from which the young in particular benefit, and most importantly because we have much to learn from the experience of others. Let us therefore work together with our European partners to tackle the drug abuse crisis.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEWART-CLARK
(Draftsman, European Parliament's Committee of Enquiry into Drug Abuse),
Holme House,
Holtby Common,
nr Cowden,
Kent,
October 31.

Right of audience

From Mr R. E. K. Holmes

Sir, Your front page article about rights of audience (October 31) may have left a misleading impression. It may be helpful, therefore, for your readers to see the full text of the letter sent by the Lord Chancellor's Department on October 24 to the Bar, the Law Society and the National Consumer Council. It is as follows:

Rights of audience in formal and unopposed matters in the High Court

I am writing to seek your views on the question of rights of audience to make (for example) an application for an adjournment in a case which is not contested. As you will know, the Royal Commission on Legal Services recommended that a solicitor should have a right to enable him to deal with formal or unopposed matters in any court (R.L.S.6).

They said at paragraph 18.6.1: "It would be desirable to enable a solicitor to make (for example) an application for an adjournment in a case which is not contested, for in that event the case would have to proceed. But where proceedings are formal or unopposed, we consider they should be dealt with by the most economical means possible and that for this purpose a solicitor should have the appropriate rights of audience." The Government in their response to that report said: "The Government accepts that solicitors should have a right of audience to deal with certain formal matters in any court and is considering which matters should be covered by such an extension."

We would be grateful for your views on which matters should be covered. I should emphasize that the Government's policy on rights of audience remains as set out in its response to the Boston report: we are not, therefore, seeking views on the wider questions at this time. We would be grateful for your views on which matters should be covered. I should emphasize that the Government's policy on rights of audience remains as set out in its response to the Boston report: we are not, therefore, seeking views on the wider questions at this time.

The above text shows that the object of the letter was to carry

forward the Government's previously announced position rather than to change it.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. K. HOLMES,
Under Secretary,
Legal Services Group,
Lord Chancellor's Department,
Neville House,
Page Street, SW1,
October 31.

From Mr Jack Hames, QC

Sir, Another crack at our monopoly is bound to worry the Bar Council. But no one owes the Bar a monopoly. What is troublesome is that the cracks are not the result of a public need but of pushy solicitors. What is curious is that a profession that comprises some of the ablest people in the country should have landed itself with a Bar Council which for decades has concentrated on the needs of the less successful. The Bar does not want unsuccessful barristers who cannot stand on their own two feet.

The one thing the profession can only do collectively, it has not done: look at what needs doing to adapt to market changes. Forget legal aid - we have done very well out of it. Forget the criminal barrister who cannot make a living. Let him find another job. Our profession will not be judged by its numbers but by its excellence.

Reform the Bar Council and there will at least be a chance that the Bar as a profession can make a truly worthwhile contribution to the debate as to our present legal system.

Yours faithfully,
J. HAMES,
10 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Housing stock repair

From the Leader of Wandsworth Council

Sir, Your article (October 28) on SHAC's London's housing decay contrasts intriguingly with the detailed six-month survey reported the same evening to a committee in Wandsworth. This major survey of the Wandsworth borough private-sector housing stock inspected closely approximately 11,000 properties.

In stark contrast to SHAC's report, quite remarkable improvements were found since the 1979 house condition survey. Those dwellings deemed unfit have dropped from 15 per cent to 4 per cent; those needing major repairs have dropped from 23 per cent to 20 per cent; those lacking a bathroom from 12 per cent to 2 per cent.

For the private sector, both owner-occupied and rented, the key has been the pump-priming effect of Wandsworth's enormous discretionary repair grant programme. The source of funding has been capital allocation from the Government and utilisation of capital receipts

received from site and council house sales.

Needless to say, there has been a similar massive improvement in the public-sector stock utilising the same source of funding.

In addition, we have had enormous help from the private sector and housing associations in the refurbishment of whole vacant blocks in partnership schemes aimed at tenants both wishing to buy and rent.

This technique has meant that an inner-London council with the lowest revenue cost per head of population has this year the second highest capital programme currently running at £65m for 1983/86.

To cry to the Government alone to solve the problems outlined by SHAC ignores the opportunities staring many inner-city boroughs in the face, if observed through undogmatic eyes.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL BERESFORD, Leader,
Wandsworth Council,
Leader's Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18,
October 29.

School sport

From Mr K. J. Brookman

Sir, The Headmaster of Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School's claim (October 26) that the State sector falls lamentably in sustaining the nation's reputation in our major sports calls for comment.

In the area where I teach Rugby was introduced into most schools when they became comprehensive. Unfortunately, we do not have enough space - never mind pitches - for daily practice. There are, however, members of staff who look after every soccer, Rugby and hockey team. They do so voluntarily as for other extra-curricular activities, which we value as much as sport.

We have no cricket pitch, but

hope that an artificial wicket can be got ready for next summer. It will have to serve nearly 1,200 pupils. Both boys and girls enjoy such cricket as we can offer and the staff are enthusiastic enough to be able to field a full team.

At an independent school where I once taught, there were five excellent cricket squares for 250 boys. The independent school produced a number of blues and an England player of distinction.

In athletics, also a major sport, facilities matter less. In the English schools' cup, a competition devised for teams, State schools more than hold their own against independents. Our school also cares about swimming. The staff, parents and pupils raised the money for a 25m pool and pay for its use.

Analysis of metal for the VC

From the Deputy Master of the Armouries

Sir, Things are rarely as simple as they seem. In correcting Lord Olivier's error (November 1) Mr Blinksop (November 4) has himself perpetrated some misconceptions.

There is no doubt that the two "Victoria Cross" guns, which now form part of the collection of the Royal Armouries, are of Chinese origin. However, the existence in this country of other Chinese guns, mounted on the distinctive Russian Venglov pattern carriage which saw service at Sebastopol during the Crimean War, suggests that the Russians may well have been using captured Chinese ordnance against the Anglo-French forces.

There is also no doubt that today's Victoria Crosses are cast from metal taken from one of these guns. It is not clear whether the early crosses are also from this source.

The story that they were cast from metal taken from cannon captured during the Crimean campaign comes originally, as far as I can discover, not from any official source, but from the report in *The Times* of the presentation by Queen Victoria of the first VCs, on June 26, 1857.

The Times is and was a reliable but not an infallible newspaper, and there must always be some doubt about the accuracy of any unsubstantiated story. With this in mind the scientific staff of the Royal Armouries have recently begun a research project into the metallurgy of the "VC" guns and of the crosses themselves, using a sophisticated X-ray fluorescence analyser.

Preliminary results suggest that the early crosses were certainly not cast from metal from either of the "VC" guns now in the Royal Armouries collection. It is too early to reach any more definite conclusions, except to say that the VC enigma is likely to baffle us for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,
G. M. WILSON,
Deputy Master of the Armouries,
Royal Armouries,
H M Tower of London, EC3,
November 4.

Channel fixed link

From Professor P. L. Willmore

Sir, One of the features of the debate on the Channel fixed link is that the options are being presented as a choice between the packages presented by the consortia, when one should actually be looking at the costs and benefits of linking British road and rail systems to their Continental counterparts.

The two systems developed in competition on land, having different route networks, different operating constraints and different patterns of funding.

There would be serious disadvantages in terms of operational hazards and the creation of cross-Channel monopoly if both systems were to depend on a single physical structure or to be operated by a single company, and these would be compounded if the new system, in its early stages, turned out to be sufficiently powerful to eliminate the ferries.

Governments should therefore maintain clear separation between the two systems, perhaps even to the extent of separating times of commencement.

Yours truly,
P. L. WILLMORE,
University of Reading,
Department of Cybernetics,
3 Earley Gate,
Whiteknights, Reading.

Apartheid as Antichrist

From Mr Maurice Lacey

Sir, So the Antichrist rides again in South Africa, three centuries after he was unhorsed in England (see *Antichrist in Seventeenth-century England*).

"The God of the South African State is not merely an idol or false god, it is the devil disguised as Almighty God," says the *Kairos document*, signed by 152 South African theologians (both lay and professional) and quoted by Clifford Longley (October 28).

The struggle in South Africa is said to be "a struggle for justice and injustice, truth and falsehood, good and evil, God and the Devil... This is our situation of civil war or revolution... No compromise is possible."

It is an impressive statement by committed Christians, risking arrest or worse, of the ancient doctrine of the Holy War, the final struggle between the forces of light, the Armageddon which is to usher in the millennial rule of justice and peace.

Yet one is bound to reflect that in the Soviet empire, where totalitarianism has slain its millions as apartheid has slain its hundreds, where people have queued to get out and they have, until recently, queued to get into South Africa, and where they have not even the



ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 6 1933

Remembrance of Times past. Since the war the news-packed sports pages have found that a weekly column devoted to hunting is a luxury they cannot afford.

HUNTING

THE BRAMHAM MOOR RUN WELL UNATTENDED

THE SOUTH ATHERSTONE opened their season at Newham Paddock on Saturday. A fox from Burton Pool was hunted to Willey and was lost. Later, from Hobbly's, hounds ran fast over Willey Fields and across the Watling Street, marking to ground at Claybrook. Being bolted, the fox went into a drain near the railway and a brace was bolted. From there hounds went very well over the railway, past Nutt's Spinney, with Glee Farm on the right, to Bitteswell, and lost after a very enjoyable hunt of 24 minutes.

THE BEAUFORT met at Rodbourne on Saturday and killed a fox in Angrove. Hounds found again by the Rodbourne brook and ran through Rodbourne to Startley. They went nearly to Seagry Wood, but turned back through Rodbourne Firs and village and killed by the brook after 45 minutes. A Malmesbury Common fox was killed and then, finding in Cowage Grove, hounds ran towards Westport. They turned lefthanded by Burthorpe and Thornhill to the river by Malmesbury, killing there after a very good, fast hunt. They killed a fifth fox and marked another to ground before going home.

THE BEDALE met at London-derry on Saturday. Hounds found in a covert north of Bloody Fields and ran past Gatenby and Allerthorpe. Swinging round, with Smeatholmes on the right, they ran back to Gatenby Wood, marking to ground after a good hunt of 30 minutes. There were several other second foxes in Caenby Wood. Hounds hunted one down to the River Swale, but the fox had crossed and the pack was stopped. Hounds drew the country to Grimescar blank and then went home.

THE BELVOIR concluded a very successful cub-hunting season by meeting at Great Gurney on Saturday. Finding in a rough field adjoining Barrowby Thorns, hounds crossed the railway tunnel to the Grantham and Nottingham main road. Then turning back they completed the ring and killed their fox just beyond Barrowby Owers after 15 minutes. Having killed a second fox in Caenby Wood, hounds went away with another over the canal to Woolsthorpe Cliff, but turning back lost on Castorhoe Hill. Later there was another gallop with an outlier from Barrowby. Hounds had killed 28 brace during the cub-hunting season.

THE BRAMHAM MOOR met at Bramley School on Saturday. Finding in the gardens of Farm Hall hounds ran through Mick Gill and Lake Plantation, out by Leathley, and over the Wharfe at Pool Bridge. Going up Otley Chevin and then turning lefthanded by St. Helena, they ran through Moseley Wood and killed their fox at Horseforth Station. The pack raced unattended most of the way. The time taken is a record for this cub-hunting season by killing 40 brace of foxes, the previous best being 35 brace three seasons ago. On Saturday hounds were first engaged for an hour with a fox found at Beeson. They ran rather nicely by Charley Chapel down to the Cop Oak road, where the fox was headed by motor-car and finally escaped in the Beeson. This was followed by a capital hunt of 50 minutes from Benscliffe. The pack ran fast in the open nearly to the Beeson, and from there by Mepwell to Blakehayes, where they lost.

freedom to say they are not free, any Christian who tried to get together to produce such a document would at once find themselves in prison camps, psychiatric penal establishments or exile.

That is why many people, particularly in America, see Soviet communism as the Antichrist, but can scarcely hope for the final struggle between good and evil which could only mean the nuclear destruction of civilization.

Similarly, the "prophetic theology" of the Kairos document points to a blood-bath in South Africa which, according to historical precedent, would be more like to lead to a reign of terror than the millennial rule of justice.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. LACEY,
102a Philbeach Gardens,
Earl's Court, SW5,
October 29.

Good shepherd

From the Reverend John Morrison

Sir, If my Archdeacon (October 29) is allowed to drop names, please may I?

Last Saturday, there came to hand an invoice from Aylesbury Lock & Security Ltd for "Keys for St Peter" (VAT, of course, included).

It is gratifying to supply the needs of the *Pastor parsonum*; but I wonder if any other locksmith boasts of such a client.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORRISON,
The Vicarage,
Parsons Fee,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire,
November 1.

From Lady Cottrell

Sir, On Christmas Day a few years ago I answered the telephone. "Is that Jesus?" the caller enquired. "Yes," I replied, whereupon my caller sang to me the entire verse of "Happy Birthday to You" and rang off.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN COTTRELL,
The Master's Lodge,
Jesus College,
Cambridge,
October 29.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar firmed in quiet, almost featureless trading, recovering to the levels of its Friday close against most leading currencies.

from \$1.4420 at the previous close, having traded in a narrow range all day, between \$1.4330 and \$1.4390.		ended at DM2.6115 (2.5935) having traded between DM2.5990 and DM2.6140.	
The United Kingdom trade weighted index finished unchanged at 80.3, having touched 80.4. The pound improved		Other European currencies followed the mark lower, for example, the Swiss franc at 2.1510 (3.1330) and the French franc at 7.9757 (7.9757).	

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	<i>Market rates city's range</i>	<i>Market rates, November 5</i>	<i>1 month</i>	<i>3 months</i>
New York	\$1.4330-1.4380	\$1.4240-1.4360	1.43-1.44 p.m.	1.42-1.43 p.m.
Mexican	\$1.8770-1.8740	\$1.8720-1.8760	0.40-0.44c prem	0.40-0.44c
Amsterdam	2.4214-2.4134	2.4224-2.4228	1.45-1.46 prem	1.45-1.46 prem
Buenos Aires	15.958-15.94	15.958-15.958	2.46 prem	2.46 prem
Brussels	7.958-7.958	7.9577-7.9593	3.2-3.2c prem	3.2-3.2c prem
Hamburg	2.0204-2.0205	2.017-2.017	2.4-2.4c prem	2.4-2.4c prem
Lisbon	203.74-203.75	203.74-203.74	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Madrid	200.20-200.20	200.20-200.20	1.35-1.35c	1.35-1.35c
Nairobi	13.574-13.574	13.574-13.574	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Ola	11.2480-11.2810	11.2801-11.2823	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Osaka	11.8570-11.8570	11.8570-11.8570	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Paris	2.1480-11.2910	2.1484-11.2910	2.4-2.4c decap	2.4-2.4c decap
Sao Paulo	207.58-206.89	207.58-207.58	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Tokyo	1.4370-1.4370	1.4370-1.4370	1.40-1.40c	1.40-1.40c
Zurich	2.0975-2.0970	2.0975-2.0970	2.4-2.4c prem	2.4-2.4c prem

Sterling bills changed last week by 17 pips, which was about 80.3 (city's range 80.4-80.5).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1.1488-1.1481
Australia dollar	2.2144-2.1444
Bahian dollar	0.8450-0.8450
Belgian franc**	7.9580-7.9580
Cyrus pound	0.7950-0.7950
Dutch guilder	0.8045-0.8045
Greece drachma	0.0250-0.0250
Hong Kong dollar	11.1170-11.1800
Indian rupee	17.22-17.43
Israeli sheqel	-
Kenyan shilling (KSh)	0.4200-0.4200
Malaysian ringgit	3.800-3.800
Mexican peso	0.0200-0.0200
New Zealand dollar	2.4818-2.5018
Pakistani Rupee	7.9180-7.9180
Singapore dollar	0.8087-0.8088
South African Rand	2.7010-3.7105
United Arab Emirates dirham	5.2470-5.2470

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.1885-1.1880
Singapore	2.1150-2.1170
Swiss franc	2.1440-2.1440
Australia	0.8985-0.8985
Canada	1.3735-1.3740
Denmark	1.4850-1.4850
Germany	2.4500-2.4500
Norway	5.4780-5.4780
Sweden	2.8145-2.8145
West Germany	2.705-2.705
Switzerland	2.705-2.705
Yen	2.08-2.08
France	7.9590-7.9590
Italy	2.08-2.08
Japan	1781-1.7780
Belgium(Netherlands)	36.72-36.82
Holland	7.9587-7.9587
Spain	150.17-150.17
Portugal	200.48-200.48
Greece	18.51-18.54

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank Plc and Spahn & Lloyds Bank International.

T TRUSTS

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Mercury Securities shares soar on news of US stake

By Pam Spooner

Mercury Securities, the finance house which is putting together one of the most complex amalgams of City businesses in preparation for big bang next year, was the subject of stock market rumour yesterday.

Mercury, which incorporates the merchant bank S G Warburg, will draw the stock jobber Akroyd & Smithers and the brokers Rowe & Pitman and Mullens into its structure ready to compete in the reorganized stock market. But it now sounds as if another player will be taking part in the Mercury grouping.

Dealers were bracing themselves last night for the announcement of a new shareholder in Mercury. A leading New York investment house is expected to reveal that it has a more than 5 per cent holding in the British group's shares.

Certainly, the movement of the Mercury share price suggests strong investment interest. At the end of June the price traded below 400p, but yesterday closed at a 1985 peak of 628p, up 15p on the day. At one stage Mercury was quoted at 648p.

Much of the uplift for the shares has come from City traders who believe there is more than just investment interest in the stock.

Not that a stake-buyer would have to go into the market for its holding. Paribas International, the French bank, has a 6.5 per cent holding in Mercury which it may be willing to sell.

Paribas is negotiating to buy the broker, Quilter Goodson, and if that deal goes through as expected, there appears to be little logic in Paribas keeping its chunk of Mercury. Sale of its 2.834 million shares would liberate nearly £18 million of cash which could come in handy for its capital building at Quilter.

Whatever the result of the City chat, Mercury looks ready for still more upward movement. Even at the present price level the shares trade on an historic p/e of less than 10, and high street group's shares as there are still those in the

Square Mile who hope to see the group sell off its highly-valued Warburg Investment Management offshoot. WIM would fetch in the kind of cash many analysts believe Mercury needs if it is to succeed in the drive for prime place in a post-big bang world.

Elsewhere, the mood remained bullish, though share prices boiled over in afternoon trade. Gains for both leading indices were in double-figures at one stage, but by the end of the day the FT-30 share index was up just 2.3 points at 1073.4 and the FT-SE 100 index was up 2.8 points at 1383.7. Both closing levels are yet new records.

Results from J Hepworth and Baynard Securities, the licensed dealer, has a new Business Expansion Scheme share offering which should have plenty of appeal in the midst of the apparent retail boom. Telecard Holdings will be providing an electronic grocery shopping service in central London for Prestel subscribers. Baynard is selling one million shares at 60p each to raise over £500,000 net of expenses to provide Telecard with marketing and potential expansion funds.

Sainsbury's helped boost the buying, encouraging investors to see a retail sales boom in progress. As a result stores shares advanced, though by the end of the day prices showed gains of just a few pence. Sainsbury jumped to 372p at one point but ended at 364p, up a net 6p and Hepworth rose a couple of pence only to find profit-takers cut them back to 220p for a net loss of 7p.

Tesco followed its competitor with a 10p rise to 285p and Argill Group gained 7p to 340p. That will do no harm to Argill as it waits to launch a takeover attempt on the Distillers company.

Distillers, in the meantime, showed signs of market impatience for the Argill terms, losing 13p to 450p. Boots ended the day on a 4p loss at 223p, though market men still see the historic p/e of less than 10, and high street group's shares as there are still those in the

Money supply and bank lending figures made little impression on government stocks, though there was some softening of prices. Losses of around £4 were shown.

Banking and insurance companies made gains, but prices were well off their best by the end of the day. Pearl Assurance jumped 40p to 1373p at one stage, but ended at 1348p following City talk of a bid for the life assurance group.

The Trustee Savings Bank is said to be interested in buying a life company, though market anticipation looks premature. TSB is likely to wait until its own public flotation is done next February. Nevertheless, the speculators are talking about a price of £20 a share for Pearl if a bid does come.

On the electrical pitches there was selective buying. While the resurgence of interest in STC came to a temporary halt - the shares down 1p at 84p - City analysts are looking closely at Rascal Electronics.

W Greenwell, the broker, believes Rascal will see profits growth of around 11 per cent over the next five years from cellular radio business alone. The firm rates Rascal "a sound long-term buy". The shares rose 2p to 130p yesterday.

Cable & Wireless shares touched 625p, before ending on a net 8p loss at 600p. The City began to hear of a massive fund raising exercise for the communications group next month, alongside the sale of more shares by the Government.

Underwoods, the London-based high street chemist began dealing on the market and touched 209p before settling at 206p. That compares with a striking price of 180p and a minimum tender of 115p. Shares in P & O Group jumped 11p to 426p following a strong recommendation from broker Kitcat & Aitken. The City firm describes the shipping and property group as "an essential core holding".

Details were announced of two new Unlisted Securities Market flotations. From the broker Phillips & Drew, comes TMD Advertising Holdings, a

specialist in media buying. TMD is ranked eighth largest purchaser of advertising space in Britain, compared to fourteenth place for Lowe Howard Spink Campbell-Ewald, which has a full Stock Exchange quote.

TMD made pretax profits of £504,000 on a turnover of £34.75 million in the year to last August. At a placing price of 118p a share, that puts the agency on a p/e of 21.4 and gives a market capitalization of £6.33 million. Most of the 1,073,685 shares being sold come from directors, and the £241,000 raised, net of expenses, will go towards working capital.

Ronald Martin, an office

Among the penny stocks, Helene of London, the clothing supplier, looks undervalued. Profit estimates for the year to December are around £1.7 million, against £1.4 million last time, and leave the shares on a prospective p/e of roughly 8. With dividend yield heading for over 9 per cent, the share of 25p is a snip, either for investors or predators.

equipment and supplies group, is being brought to market by Farnure Gordon, the broker, at a placing price of 50p a share. The Manchester-based company forecasts a profit of £875,000 for the year to December, against £600,000 last time, and comes to the USM on a prospective p/e of 12.24.

Market capitalization comes out at £6,795 million, and existing shareholders are selling 1,643,840 shares. Another 643,800 shares will raise £389,000 for expansion of the group.

● Total business on the traded options market yesterday reached 11,994 contracts, with BATU providing a large slice of the action. Some 2,175 BAT contracts were traded. Next biggest volume came from the Stock Exchange index option, with 1,900 contracts. The Courtauld's shipped in 1,205 contracts traded. There were few significant price changes on options.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **AMOS HUNTON & SONS:** The board proposes the immediate repayment of the outstanding £205,000 of 6½ per cent irredeemable loan stock at 90p in cash for every £1 nominal.

● **HEWLETT STUART PLANT:** The proposed acquisition of Harrison Hire Company and its associated subsidiary companies on September 13 will not now take place.

● **RENAISSANCE ENERGY:** The company's gross revenues increased by 139 per cent from £9.45 million (£4.72 million) to £22.59 million and cash flow by 188 per cent from £3.32 million to £9.55 million for the nine months to September 30. Cash flow per share was £1.66 basic and £1.31 fully diluted.

● **SIME DARBY:** The company has confirmed that it proposes, through its Australian subsidiary, Sime Darby Investments, to make formal offers to acquire 50 per cent of each shareholder's interest in Mortlock Brothers at Aus \$2.50 per ordinary share.

● **PKYE (HOLDINGS):** Hilldown Holding has received undertakings to accept the offer for the whole share capital of Pyke not already owned by Hilldown, from various members of Pyke's senior management and their families in respect of 370,982 ordinary shares.

● **COMME HOLDINGS:** A dividend of 2p (nil) is being paid on December 31 to the holders of 26p shares in the company. With figures in £000, turnover was 30,570 (28,436) and pretax profit and extraordinary items 1,718 (1,534).

● **UDO HOLDINGS:** Results for the year to July 31. Final dividend 2.5p making 3.75p (nil) as forecast. With figures in £000, turnover was 12,648 (9,146) and pretax profit 1,546 (805). Earnings per share were 15.15p (8.47p).

● **TAY HOMES:** A final dividend of 3.1p making 4.5p (same) is being paid in the year to June 30. With figures in £000, turnover was 1,466 (9,905) and pretax profit 647 (1,017). Earnings per share were 7.1p (11.6p).

● **HEALTH CARE SERVICES:** The group intends to declare for the year its first dividend of 0.75p, payable in August 86. With figures in £000, turnover for the half year to September 30 was 2,473 (2,598). Pretax profit was 205 (55). Earnings per share were 1.0p (0.4p).

● **BRASWAY:** Acceptances have been received in respect of 2,174,585 shares (93.75 per cent of the issue). The balance has been sold in the market.

● **BRIKAT GROUP:** Results for the year to July 31. Final dividend 2.5p making 4p (0.75p) is being paid on Jan 13. With figures in £000, turnover was 1,755 (1,550) and profit before tax 1275 (726). Earnings per share were 14p (8.6p).

● **TYSONS (CONTRACTORS):** For the half year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 11,461 (13,053), while the pretax loss was £20 (loss). 36.11p. Losses per share were 8.39p (loss, 7.23p).

Sainsbury, the old reliable which keeps climbing

Light blue touch paper and approach. That is the message which would be emblazoned on J. Sainsbury share certificates were they fireworks. Some issues promise fiery cascades of capital growth but might also blow up in your face. Sainsbury shares glow, rather than sparkle, but it is perfectly safe to hold them.

This is exactly what most Sainsbury investors do. Indeed, the scarcity of the stock in the market exaggerates the mystique of a company which consistently scales new peaks despite its own protestations that such pinnacles are beyond its reach. It has led to Sainsbury becoming the quintessential "hold": too expensive to buy but too good to sell.

Yesterday's interim results were yet another manifestation of the company's ability to generate sales and profits almost at will. Sales rose by over 14 per cent to £1,831.6 million and pretax profits rose by 23.2 per cent to £92.4 million from £75.1 million.

Once again a combination of increased volumes and better margins provided the main thrust of the improvement. Net margins rose to a record 4.65 per cent from 4.49 per cent a year ago. Sir John Sainsbury may protest that margins have little room for further improvement, but he has said that before.

Just as there is a limit on the fastest time in which the mile can be run so there is a limit on the Sainsbury net margin. Given the excellent management systems which the company has and the ever increasing economies of scale from the new store openings it is hard to believe that the room for upward manoeuvre has been totally exhausted.

Even if it has, Sainsbury still has enormous growth potential from new store openings. Five new stores opened in the half year and all are trading well ahead of forecast.

Not content with monopolizing the food retailing scene, Sainsbury is also making successful inroads into the DIY and garden centre market, with its Homebase chain. That contributed £1.6 million in the half, from little more than

break even, and this despite high start up costs.

The shares closed up 6p at 364p. The volatility in the price yesterday was a reflection more of the lack of stock than uncertainty about the company's prospects, which are as solid as ever.

J Hepworth & Son

Four years ago J Hepworth was a tailor in the Montague Burton mould, with an uninspiring business in off-the-peg suits and a less well-known sideline in made-to-measure outfits for the self-respecting teddy boy.

Perhaps it was the success of the zoo suits that led Hepworth to discover concept retailing, although some of the credit must also go to the concept retailer personified, Sir Terence Conran. During his brief reign as chairman, Hepworth began. Next. Now the transformation is so complete that the company will take the name of its fast-breeding progeny and by this time next year the Hepworth name will have been eradicated from the high street.

Next's phenomenal success has already entered City folklore, so yesterday's announcement of a 47 per cent leap in pretax profits left the shares down 4p at 323p. The profits increase from £13.6 million to £20.1 million was no more than expected. Interest now focuses on whether the chief executive, Mr George Davies, can maintain the Next momentum.

He is in a highly competitive world, but his clothing chains appear to keep the customers happy. The women's stores are turning over £380 a sq ft while the men's are doing well over £300. Mr Davies insists that over the year the existing stores increased their volume by around a tenth. But growth now is coming from new and larger stores which can accommodate the Next Interiors products.

Big stores bring cheaper retailing space. Mr Davies is already finding that his min-department stores bring a wider margin between turnover and overheads.

Despite the current slowdown, it should continue to produce excellent figures. Yesterday it announced interim profits of £16 million, up from £12.8 million, and it should beat this in the second half. Assuming profits of £34 million for the full year, the shares are trading on a multiple of 17 times earnings. That looks high but reflects the star status of a company producing consistent growth in earnings per share.

He sees his success as being as much due to a shrewd property eye as a nose for what the public wants. Property profits are put at £5.1 million, up from £3 million over the year. In part this is due to the portfolio of high street gems that Next inherited from Hepworth, and on which it insists on charging its retail outlets rent - an excellent discipline for shopkeepers who might get carried away with concepts.

Electrocomponents

Electrocomponents' warning of a slowdown scared off some of the company's recent converts yesterday. The shares fell 12p to 333p having outperformed the rest of the market by 11 per cent in the last month.

It seems that no sooner had the market come round to the fact that Electrocomponents is not vulnerable to the fall-out in the electronics sector, than the company undoes the lesson.

Mr Ron Marler, the chairman, spoke yesterday of growing competition. It seems that other electronics distributors, particularly those used to supplying large orders, are now trying to supply Electrocomponents' smaller customers and offering them their usual discounts.

While the market was quick to take Mr Marler's warning to heart, it should not forget its earlier lesson. As well as electronic products, Electrocomponents distributes a wide range of instruments and security systems for the domestic market. It is more sensitive to the general economy than to the fortunes of its particular sector.

Despite the current slowdown, it should continue to produce excellent figures. Yesterday it announced interim profits of £16 million, up from £12.8 million, and it should beat this in the second half. Assuming profits of £34 million for the full year, the shares are trading on a multiple of 17 times earnings. That looks high but reflects the star status of a company producing consistent growth in earnings per share.

Our business is selling yours



The best known name in merger broking

APPOINTMENTS

Redfern National Glass: Mr Michael Bradley has joined the board as an executive director and will take over as sales and marketing director on January 1.

Berkeley Exportation & Production: Mr David Pearce becomes company secretary.

Price Waterhouse: Mr Nigel Tricker has been made a partner.

Touche Remnant International Advisory Board: M

Jean-Paul Parayre joins the board. KAE Group: Mr Lawrence Kelly joins the board as non-executive director. Mr Gordon Lapski becomes managing director of International Information Services.

The Welin Davis and Engineering Company: Mr Roy Collett has been appointed managing director.

The Institute of Purchasing and Supply: Mr R. J. Parrott has been made president. Mr T. H. Griffiths, vice-president. Mr A. W. Phillips, chairman. Mr A. G. Robertson, deputy chairman, and Mr K. D. Streams, treasurer.

Caledonian Leisure: Mr Alvin Morris becomes director and general manager of Arrowsmith Holidays.

Solaglas: Mr Bill Buys joins the main board as group finance director.

EEV: Mr Michael Mandl has been appointed managing director.

Aerosols International: Mr Tony Dowsett becomes production director.

Pedigree Dolls and Toys: Mr John Minall has been appointed managing director.

Uniroyal Tyres: Mr Robert Jackson has been made managing director UK.

Aidcom International: Mr Robin Dow has been appointed chief executive and chairman-designate of the research division.

Grants Patch Mining: Mr P A Harford becomes executive chairman. The chairman, Mr C A M Hider, joins the board and Dr L K Walker becomes managing director.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Closing Price
A M Industries 5p Ord (92)	108.2
Greenland 10p Ord (100)	108.2
C P M 5p Ord (125)	130.5
Comet 25p Ord (88)	92.5
Devidon 10p Ord (140)	104
Electric Electronics 5p Ord (95)	104
Electric Data Proc 5p Ord (75)	106.2
Electric 10p Ord (120)	64.2
Gilbert 10p Ord (72)	64.2
InfraRed 50.10p Ord (94)	21.2
Joe Kubler 10p Ord (180)	36.1
Kewell Systems 5p Ord (78)	82
Kewell 10p Ord (67)	170.5
Quintel 10p Ord (180)	98.3
Radiat 5p Ord (85)	178
St Ives Group 10p Ord (330)	206
Standard 20p Ord (17)	
Stardew 10p Ord (180)	
Rights Issues	
Barrow (55) 10p Paid	67-2
Flint (100) 10p Paid	23
Carfax 10p (100) Nil Paid	33
Issue price in parentheses, a Unlisted Security, "p" means	

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11½%
Adam & Company	11½%
BCCI	11½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crds	11½%
Continental Trust	11½%
Co-operative Bank	11½%
C. Hoare & Co	11½%
Lloyds Bank	11½%
Nat. Westminster	11½%
Royal Bank Scotland	11½%
TSB	11½%
Citibank NA	11½%
† Mortgage Base Rate.	

electrocomponents

INTERIM RESULTS

30 September 1985

Trading results and prospects

- strong growth in first half
- Two new US subsidiaries acquired on 1st October 1985
- Board is confident of continued progress for current year and beyond, but increasingly competitive market conditions indicate that growth rates in the immediate future will be lower than first half
- Interim dividend increased to 1.9p (1.6p)

	Half year to 30.9.85 (unaudited)	Half year to 30.9.84 (unaudited)	Year to 31.3.85 (audited)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sales turnover	89,544	73,674	164,024
Profit before interest received	15,284	12,185	28,497
Interest received	743	568	1,090
Profit before taxation	16,027	12,753	29,587
Taxation	6,410	5,718	13,087
Profit after taxation	9,617	7,035	16,500
Minority interests	71	47	153
Earnings available for shareholders	9,546	6,988	16,347
Dividends	1,937	1,651	5,351
Retained earnings	7,609	5,337	10,996
Dividends per share: Interim	1.9p	1.6p	1.6p
Final	—	—	3.65p
Earnings per share	9.37p	6.86p	16.04p

Increases over corresponding period:

Sales	21.5%	27.8%	26.9%
Profit	25.7%	28.8%	33.1%
Net Group Bank Balances:	£9.5m	£4.2m	£2.5m

The audited figures are extracted from the company's full accounts for the year ended 31 March 1985. These accounts received an unqualified report and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

electrocomponents

Harrier House, St. Albans Road East, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 0HE

SAINSBURY'S

Record Group Performance

The unaudited interim results for the Group were:

	1985 28 weeks to 5th October	1984 28 weeks to 6th October	Increase
£ million			
Sales*	1,831.6	1,598.3	14.6%
Retail Profit	85.2	71.8	18.7%
Retail Margin	4.65%	4.49%	
Associates	7.2	3.3	118.7%
Group Profit before Tax	92.4	75.1	23.2%
Group Profit after Estimated Tax	60.1	52.0	15.5%
Earnings per Share (fully taxed @ 35%)	8.60p	7.06p	21.8%
Dividend per Share	1.65p	1.4p	17.9%

*includes VAT £82.5 million (1984 £69.4 million)

Salient Points

1 Profit growth of 23.2% reflected substantial improvement in all areas of the Group's activities. Retail profit increased by 18.7% and the net margin percentage was 4.65%, a record level for the first half. Our prices have remained highly competitive, and we have made further gains in productivity, as well as providing better customer service at the checkouts.

2 Of the total Group sales of £1,832 million, supermarket sales of £1,783 million show an increase of 13.9%. Supermarket volume growth exceeded 9%, with the level of price inflation reducing to 4.2%.

3 Five supermarkets opened in the half year, giving a net increase in sales area of 127,000 sq ft. All are trading well ahead of forecast and at the new supermarket outside Guildford, sales volume set a new Company record for an opening week. Of the ten stores to open in the second half of the year, seven will be trading before Christmas.

4 Homebase sales increased by 45% to £48.6 million and despite continuing high development costs, profit increased from £0.3 million to £1.6 million. Three stores were opened in the half year, and in the second half two stores will open to bring the total number of Homebase outlets to 28.

5 All Associates performed well. SavaCentre's profit increased by 49%; Haverhill Meat Products is once again showing good profits, and Shaw's, the Company's American Associate, achieved excellent results.

6 The 1984/1985 distribution under our profit sharing scheme resulted in more than 1.5 million shares going to over 11,000 employees who chose to take all or part of their distribution in shares rather than cash. As usual, no provision for profit sharing has been made in the half year's accounts, since the level of profit share is dependent on the full year's results.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.65p per share (1984 1.4p) which, together with its associated tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 2.36p. The total amount of the net dividend is £11.5 million (1984 £9.7 million). This dividend will be paid on 17th January 1986 to shareholders on the register of members at the close of business on 20th December 1985.

Good food costs less at Sainsbury's

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stand. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	INDUSTRIALS A-D					
2	BOC	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assoc Heat	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Dalrymple	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Bespak	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Avon Rubber	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Blundell-Perrin	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	AGB Research	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Artemis	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Black (Pearl)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Cook (Wm)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	FOODS					
13	Cullens	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Kwik Save	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Fitch Lovell	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Sainsbury (J)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Assoc. Dairy	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Hazlewood Foods	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Unigate	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Angell	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Do	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	AS Food	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	DRAPERY AND STORES					
24	Br Home Stores	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	House of Lovers	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Dunhill	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Grainger	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Reed (Austin)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Owen Owen	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Samuel (J)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Combined English	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Moss Bros	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Home Chem	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	INDUSTRIALS E-K					
35	Metal Closures	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Norcross	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	MS Int	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	Rank Org	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	Redfern Glass	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Freemantle Hides	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
41	Metal Box	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
42	Marley	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
43	Lamont	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
44	Reuter	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

UNDATED

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDEX-LINKED

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

PROSPECTIVE REAL REDUCTION YIELD ON PROJECTED INFLATION

rate (10%) or (15%) or (20%) or (25%) or (30%) or (35%) or (40%) or (45%) or (50%) or (55%) or (60%) or (65%) or (70%) or (75%) or (80%) or (85%) or (90%) or (95%) or (100%)

BREWERIES

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

ELECTRICALS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Trading firmly

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 28. Dealings End, Nov 8. Contango Day, Nov 11. Settlement Day, Nov 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E
1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

FOODS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K

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INDUSTRIALS L-R

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INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K

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INDUSTRIALS E-K

1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

THE TIMES
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Britain attacks insurance barriers in EEC court

By Alison Eadie

The European Court of Justice starts hearing in Luxembourg today a case concerning freedom of insurance services in the European Economic Community, the outcome of which will have significant implications for the British insurance industry.

In the dock will be West Germany, France, Denmark and Ireland. Britain is giving evidence for the prosecution, in this case the European Commission.

The barriers put up by those in the dock, and others including Italy and Greece, to prevent the free supply of insurance services across national frontiers will be under attack.

A reinsurance directive of 1964 gave reinsurers freedom of establishment and services, so a common market exists for reinsurance business.

Direct insurance, however, is severely restricted by different legislation in different states, which is contrary to the Treaty of Rome's insistence on freedom of services.

In 1976 a directive on freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services for insurance intermediaries was promulgated, but its second element remains ineffective.

A co-insurance directive, which came into force in 1980 to facilitate the covering of risks by more than one insurer in



Franz Schleicher: fined £4,800 by German court

more than one member state, has become unusable due to disagreements among member states over the meaning of certain key articles.

These disagreements have led to today's court case. The four defendants were the first member states to bring in legislation specifying that the leading insurer in a multiple transaction had to be established in the country where the insurance business originated.

Although many large insurance companies tend to have a network of branches worldwide, the establishment rule hits Lloyd's market hard. Lloyd's underwrites all its business in

London through referrals from brokers worldwide.

In order to comply with local rules, it has had to set up offices in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland and is obliged to keep reserves in those countries in local currencies. This is said to lead to needless expense.

The court will hear evidence from West Germany first, a crucial starting point given the Schleicher case of 1983.

A German court fined a Bavarian insurance broker, Herr Franz Schleicher, DM18,000 (£4,800) for placing insurance contracts covering West German-based risks with English insurance companies not licensed and established in West Germany.

Herr Schleicher was able to obtain cheaper premium rates than those offered by West German companies and was also able to insure a number of risks as a single package. West German practice requires risks to be insured separately.

Although there is no provision stopping a West German from placing business with a foreign insurer by correspondence, it is a criminal offence for anybody in West Germany to act as an intermediary in the placing of business with an unauthorized insurer.

Herr Schleicher, who places the contracts on behalf of his clients, complained to the European Commission.

Britain, which believes it has the most liberal attitude in Europe to the freedom of insurance services, and also most to gain from a judgment against restrictions.

EEC business both direct and reinsurance excluding the British amounts to under 10 per cent of Lloyd's business. This is true of the British insurance industry in general, which is far more dependent on United States business.

The main beneficiary of an easing of restrictions would, however, be the consumer. Industrialists have estimated that their insurance costs are 3 to 5 per cent more than they need be.

European enterprises often have to buy several insurance policies all on different conditions of cover and not at the most competitive rates. Consumers are also cut off from new products offered by other community markets.

The British Government submission to the Court will argue that consumers not established in Britain have always been able to take part in co-insurance of risks, or indeed to insure them entirely. Britain has a truly international insurance market and so should the rest of the EEC, to the benefit of industry and commerce in all member states.

A judgment is not expected until next spring.



The Sprinter: lower costs for BR and a better service for provincial passengers

New trains put BR on right lines

British Rail's announcement of its biggest-ever order for rolling stock, amounting to £182 million, has started a row with BR's engineering unions as 298 of the 652 new vehicles will be built by outside industry rather than British Rail Engineering.

The important point, the unions appear to miss is that it is a triumph for BR to have persuaded the Government to authorize any new trains for secondary services.

Just five years ago the outlook for BR's branch and secondary main line services was gloomy and it seemed impossible to make an economic case for building new trains.

It was assumed that the lines concerned would have to be shut when the veteran trains finally gave up the ghost, and in the meantime a make-do-and-mend policy was adopted.

Then in 1982, BR reorganized its management structure, splitting up the corporate monolith into five separate

Rail unions are angry that outside companies will get nearly half the work on new rolling stock but James Abbott argues that the trains order is a triumph for BR

sectors. Responsibility for the secondary lines outside the South-east - which consume the lion's share of the £810 million annual subsidy which the Government gives BR for maintaining the "social" railway - was assigned to the provincial sector. Containment of that subsidy was to be the sector's chief task.

When the provincial sector examined the make-do-and-mend policy the costs proved horrific. Many vehicles were taken into workshops to strip out asbestos insulation.

New fuel-efficient trains could undercut the running costs of the old trains drastically. They would also be cheaper to run than Inter-City

hand-me-downs. The lesson was clear and, mindful of the impact at the ballot box of railway closure proposals, the Government authorized construction of new trains.

Under the arm's-length relationship that BR has established with British Rail Engineering, all new rolling stock orders are put out to competitive tender.

Some of the big new order will be built at BR's York works, but Metro-Cammell's Birmingham factory and the Leyland bus plant at Wokingham, Cumbria, which has been adapted for railway vehicles, have also picked up work.

BR says it has obtained price and quality advantages with competitive tendering, but an important factor is that establishing two more production lines for the Sprinter trains will enable the provincial sector to reap the benefits sooner.

The author is editor of Modern Railways.

Arbitration sought by Spicer & White

By Our City Staff

Spicer & White, the Lloyd's managing agent owned by Willis Faber, will argue in a private legal hearing today that the writ against it for negligence and breach of duty to "names" should be settled by arbitration.

In July 1972 names, including Miss Virginia Wade and Mr Mark Cox, the tennis players, issued a writ against Spicer & White, because of alleged gross overwriting of the permitted levels of insurance business.

The names do not want to go to arbitration. They are asking for an interim payment of £3.5 million and have made an application for an immediate judgment, if the court rules against arbitration.

They argue that there is no defence because Spicer & White admits there has been overwriting, and is therefore in breach of its contract to the names.

Elections for places on Lloyd's ruling council close today when Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, will address the general meeting of members and announce the results. He is standing for re-election and looks certain to retain his place.

Fifteen candidates are standing for six seats - seven working members for four seats and eight external members for two seats.

Among the external candidates are Mr Eddie Kulukundis, the shipbroker and theatrical impresario

Redesigned Asda in push for profits

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Asda Stores, which have been given a new look by the store designers Fitch & Co, are changing course to steer out of its profits growth rut.

The problem for Asda Stores, part of Asda-MFI, is that it has been doing well for too long. The supermarket chain has lately been content with a profit growth year-on-year of about 7 per cent, while its key competitors have been achieving double that figure.

The lesson was reinforced yesterday as J. Sainsbury reported half-time pretax profits up by more than a fifth.

Mr John Hardman, Asda Stores' managing director, said: "We are changing our business while it is still successful. There will be a constraint on profitability this year and next, but in 1987-88 we shall be really motoring."

Until a re-evaluation of Asda's strategy, led by Mr Hardman, the chain of 103 stores had concentrated on selling branded goods at keen prices.

Ten years ago, according to Asda, that gave the chain an edge on price of about 10 per cent. Five years ago the advantage had dropped to about 5 to 6 per cent. Now it is at best 3 per cent and can be down to 1 per cent.

Mr Hardman is now turning Asda more towards the added value lines of convenience foods and own label goods. J. Sainsbury has been the leader in own-label goods and has been followed by Tesco Stores.

Mr Keith Clarke, Asda's trading director, who joined the company this year from Tesco, said: "We are stocking virtually all the brands in Britain yet not meeting what customers are demanding. Own-label is now necessary for us."

The attraction of own-label goods is gross profit margins which can be double those on branded goods. On biscuits there is an average gross margin of 12 per cent on branded lines and 25 per cent on own-label.

But it means in developing own-label there has to be spending on research and development and more than

before on distribution and shelf-filling. But there should still be a net benefit from own label.

Mrs Clarke said: "We need to become a developer of markets and not just a follower as is the case in relying on branded development."

Asda wants to have own-label goods accounting for 35 to 40 per cent of its stock.

His research has shown that price alone is no longer the key demand of shoppers. A good store environment, the right range of goods and improved customer service, and care are also key considerations, it says.

Hence the plan to change the style of Asda shopping. At its new superstore at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, the old cream and brown colours have gone, replaced by apple green and orange plus dashes of red and blue. Non-food, packet groceries and an expanded fresh food selection are all more clearly defined sections.

It is what Mr Hardman described as a "bright, clean, breezy, satisfying shopping environment." For the first time in an Asda store there are lower suspended ceilings over the non-food and fresh food areas, although the groceries area is still open to roof height as a reminder of Asda's traditional no-frills approach.

New Asda stores from now on will adopt the new look, with floor staff in uniforms instead of overalls. The entrance area will include property shops with low fixed fees for house selling and other specialist outlets like discount opticians, pharmacies, hairdressing salons, dry cleaners and travel agencies.

Asda has opened three stores this year, and it plans 11 more during its next financial year at a building cost alone of about £80 million.

It aims to have between 150 and 170 outlets within five years. On sites where space is restricted it is considering opening stores without non-food lines.

The strategy of MFI is still being planned, although there is integration at management levels and joint distribution.

Mexican bid by Tarmac

By Jeremy Warner

British companies, including Tarmac Construction International, are being invited to bid for work worth more than £360 million for the construction of shock-proof hospitals in Mexico City.

The technique used will be based on a pin-jointed lightweight steel frame which allows the building to "wobble" with an earthquake shock wave.

Around 6,000 beds were lost during the earthquake in Mexico's capital, and the Mexican Government is keen for work to begin on replacement hospital space as soon as possible.

Mexico, however, would expect the British Government to agree to a substantial package of aid and loans backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in return for awarding the contract to a British company.

Tarmac is in a prime position to build hospitals to withstand earthquakes, having just completed a £50 million contract to build four 240-bed hospitals in northern Algeria.

The contract was carried out in conjunction with Clasp, a consortium formed by local authorities to exploit technology developed for building where mining subsistence is a problem.

£100 million loan issue

By Judith Hustley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Land Securities, Britain's biggest property company, is raising £100 million with a debenture issue.

The debenture has been long awaited by the City, indicating that the company is set on taking more active part in the property market.

Land Securities says that much of the £100 million has been spoken for in current projects and those in the pipeline. The company announced its intention to spend £50 million on buying retail property and it is already part of the way along that road.

The money will also be used to develop and refurbish buildings and to buy in freehold reversions to improve the quality of the portfolio.

Land Securities' 40-year money will have a 10 per cent coupon. The gross redemption yield is 0.40 per cent above the yield on 13.5 per cent Treasury Stock 2004-8, giving it cheaper money than that obtained by other property companies.

Peachey, Property Corporation was the last to raise £20 million in a debenture issue but its gross redemption yield was 0.65 per cent above that for gilt.

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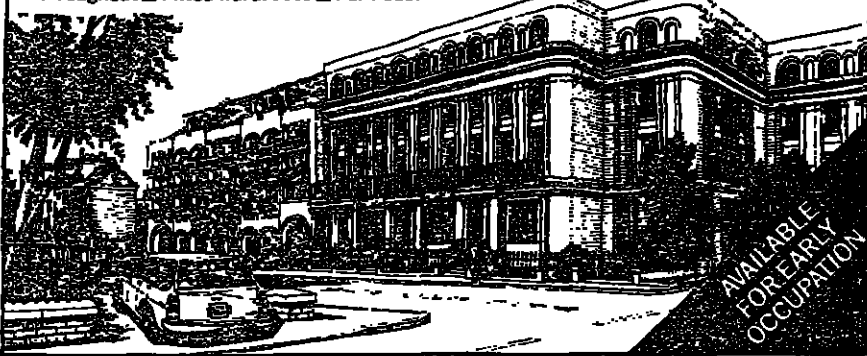
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Charming cottage in good order with large garden, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large kitchen, breakfast room, 2nd floor, utility room, garden, driveway and garage. £225,000. Freehold.

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In this fine 19th century terrace, 2 newly converted and elegant maisonettes, creatively designed, combining with a high standard of workmanship and many original Victorian features. Ground and 1st floor, 32x15ft recp, 3 beds, 2 baths, kit, 50ft garden, 199 yr lease, 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors - 18ft x 15ft recp, 3 beds, 2 baths, kit, potential roof terrace. 999 yrs. £150,000.

01-727 9811

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Little Venice W2

Gracious Regency villa of lavish proportions and in excellent decorative condition. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 en suite, double garage, 1st floor, 2nd floor, 3rd floor, 4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor, 7th floor, 8th floor, 9th floor, 10th floor, 11th floor, 12th floor, 13th floor, 14th floor, 15th floor, 16th floor, 17th floor, 18th floor, 19th floor, 20th floor, 21st floor, 22nd floor, 23rd floor, 24th floor, 25th floor, 26th floor, 27th floor, 28th floor, 29th floor, 30th floor, 31st floor, 32nd floor, 33rd floor, 34th floor, 35th floor, 36th floor, 37th floor, 38th floor, 39th floor, 40th floor, 41st floor, 42nd floor, 43rd floor, 44th floor, 45th floor, 46th floor, 47th floor, 48th floor, 49th floor, 50th floor, 51st floor, 52nd floor, 53rd floor, 54th floor, 55th floor, 56th floor, 57th floor, 58th floor, 59th floor, 60th floor, 61st floor, 62nd floor, 63rd floor, 64th floor, 65th floor, 66th floor, 67th floor, 68th floor, 69th floor, 70th floor, 71st floor, 72nd floor, 73rd floor, 74th floor, 75th floor, 76th floor, 77th floor, 78th floor, 79th floor, 80th floor, 81st floor, 82nd floor, 83rd floor, 84th floor, 85th floor, 86th floor, 87th floor, 88th floor, 89th floor, 90th floor, 91st floor, 92nd floor, 93rd floor, 94th floor, 95th floor, 96th floor, 97th floor, 98th floor, 99th floor, 100th floor, 101st floor, 102nd floor, 103rd floor, 104th floor, 105th floor, 106th floor, 107th floor, 108th floor, 109th floor, 110th floor, 111th floor, 112th floor, 113th floor, 114th floor, 115th floor, 116th floor, 117th floor, 118th floor, 119th floor, 120th floor, 121st floor, 122nd floor, 123rd floor, 124th floor, 125th floor, 126th floor, 127th floor, 128th floor, 129th floor, 130th floor, 131st floor, 132nd floor, 133rd floor, 134th floor, 135th floor, 136th floor, 137th floor, 138th floor, 139th floor, 140th floor, 141st floor, 142nd floor, 143rd floor, 144th floor, 145th floor, 146th floor, 147th floor, 148th floor, 149th floor, 150th floor, 151st floor, 152nd floor, 153rd floor, 154th floor, 155th floor, 156th floor, 157th floor, 158th floor, 159th floor, 160th floor, 161st floor, 162nd floor, 163rd floor, 164th floor, 165th floor, 166th floor, 167th floor, 168th floor, 169th floor, 170th floor, 171st floor, 172nd floor, 173rd floor, 174th floor, 175th floor, 176th floor, 177th floor, 178th floor, 179th floor, 180th floor, 181st floor, 182nd floor, 183rd floor, 184th floor, 185th floor, 186th floor, 187th floor, 188th floor, 189th floor, 190th floor, 191st floor, 192nd floor, 193rd floor, 194th floor, 195th floor, 196th floor, 197th floor, 198th floor, 199th floor, 200th floor, 201st floor, 202nd floor, 203rd floor, 204th floor, 205th floor, 206th floor, 207th floor, 208th floor, 209th floor, 210th floor, 211th floor, 212th floor, 213th floor, 214th floor, 215th floor, 216th floor, 217th floor, 218th floor, 219th floor, 220th floor, 221st floor, 222nd floor, 223rd floor, 224th floor, 225th floor, 226th floor, 227th floor, 228th floor, 229th floor, 230th floor, 231st floor, 232nd floor, 233rd floor, 234th floor, 235th floor, 236th floor, 237th floor, 238th floor, 239th floor, 240th floor, 241st floor, 242nd floor, 243rd floor, 244th floor, 245th floor, 246th floor, 247th floor, 248th floor, 249th floor, 250th floor, 251st floor, 252nd floor, 253rd floor, 254th floor, 255th floor, 256th floor, 257th floor, 258th floor, 259th floor, 260th floor, 261st floor, 262nd floor, 263rd floor, 264th floor, 265th floor, 266th floor, 267th floor, 268th floor, 269th floor, 270th floor, 271st floor, 272nd floor, 273rd floor, 274th floor, 275th floor, 276th floor, 277th floor, 278th floor, 279th floor, 280th floor, 281st floor, 282nd floor, 283rd floor, 284th floor, 285th floor, 286th floor, 287th floor, 288th floor, 289th floor, 290th floor, 291st floor, 292nd floor, 293rd floor, 294th floor, 295th floor, 296th floor, 297th floor, 298th floor, 299th floor, 300th floor, 301st floor, 302nd floor, 303rd floor, 304th floor, 305th floor, 306th floor, 307th floor, 308th floor, 309th floor, 310th floor,

OVERSEAS PROPERTY



Most of the new apartments for sale to the non-Swiss holiday-home buyer in Villars are in the Domaine de la Residence estate above the town. This classic traditional-style wooden chalet is typical of apartment chalets built there recently, each containing six to 10 units of which a proportion is authorized for foreign sale

Swiss resorts for the high life

Switzerland inevitably evokes images that include the sound of cowbells echoing among chalet-studded hillsides either covered in gentians or smothered in snow. Despite the consistently strong franc, Switzerland has long proved a popular destination for the British holidaymaker, attracting more specifically the avid skier and the keen mountain walker.

A natural result of this, coupled obviously with the most stable economy in Europe, is the desire for some foreigners to own a leisure home there, a process which seems to become more difficult each year as the Swiss increasingly introduce further regulations governing such sales.

In May 1984, a referendum banning all property sales to foreigners was narrowly defeated but it resulted in a cut of their authorized quota of homes to just 2,000 units during the year 1985-86 - quite a drop from the 1980 figure of 3,000.

Non-Swiss can no longer buy in the economic and financial centres such as Geneva, Basle, and Zurich, and mostly it is only in tourist resorts - and then strictly on a percentage basis - that such sales are allowed resulting in certain instances in a two-tier pricing system.

But in the designated areas - and these include a number of resorts popular with the British - there is a fair selection of property, both for immediate occupation or, increasingly, being sold off-plan; and buying procedures are straightforward and speedy. Essential legal and registration fees vary from canton to canton. In Valais, for example, they amount to 3 per cent of the purchase price, while in neighbouring Valais, the cost is 2.32 per cent.

Restrictions on eventual resale are tight. The more salient points being that a foreigner cannot sell on until the property has been owned for five years and then only to a Swiss national. There are exceptions that can include bankruptcy, death or serious illness in the family, when special authorization to sell to another foreigner can be obtained by personal application of the seller to the local authority.

Chestertons Overseas has a wide portfolio of Swiss properties for sale, all of which qualify for a mortgage using the proposed purchase as collateral and borrowing from a Swiss bank where interest rates are now between 7.5 per cent and 8.5 per cent depending on the amount of the loan.

Verbier, about 80 miles, most of it motorway, from Geneva airport is extremely popular with the British skier and has a small selection of authorized property for sale including two apartments at the Residence Flaminia and two detached chalets.

It is becoming rare to find private chalets available for sale to foreigners but these are just two of a number being developed by a private builder who applied for and was given the necessary permission before the latest restrictions were imposed.

Restrictions on eventual resale are right

Asking around £243,000 for the completed chalet (the second one has yet to have a selling price) accommodation consists of three bedrooms and two bathrooms at ground level and a large first-floor gallery reception area opening on to a south-facing balcony.

Residence Flaminia is an apartment block, built in traditional chalet style, five minutes walk from the centre of Verbier, with all flats having stupendous views from the large balconies which face south over the valley. The two units Chestertons has available are finished to a high standard with fully fitted kitchens and are priced at about £223,000 and £131,000 for the three bedroom and two bedroom/two bathroom flats respectively.

The rental potential on most Swiss property in tourist areas is good as there is both a summer and winter season and Swiss estate agents associated with Chestertons can arrange full after-sales services. Annual running costs are normally estimated at some 2 per cent of the purchase price to include service charges and property taxes.

Crans-Montana, in complete contrast to Verbier, is a large sophisticated leisure town that has, in addition to its excellent ski facilities, an 18-hole championship golf course, where the European Masters is played in September, a further nine-hole course and a new course now being built which has been designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Property here, by definition, is expensive but there is a fair selection designated for foreign sales. Situated right by the sixth hole of the new golf course is Chateau Neully, which has a number of its 19 apartments available.

The apartments all have fully-fitted kitchens, carpeting, large balconies and, included in the price, a cellar, covered parking space and use of the laundry facilities. Studios cost from £47,000, one-bedroom units from £126,000 and two bedrooms are from £153,000.

Scheduled for completion next summer is the luxury Montebello apartment development, being built by the 16th hole of the established golf course, beside the Crans Golf Hotel where the two, three and four bedroom units cost £235,000, £310,000 and £416,000 respectively, all finished to the owners' specification.

Villars is an old established resort built in traditional Swiss style and has a number of apartments for sale to foreigners, predominantly in chalets which are being built in the 200-acre Domaine de la Residence estate.

At Residence L'iris, which is ready for immediate occupation, the use of wood predominates. The apartments are spacious, well finished and have views of the valley and the mountains behind. The adjacent chalet, Le Sapin Bleu, has two duplex three bedroom apartments for sale at £203,000 and £218,000.

Details: Chestertons Overseas, 116 Kensington High Street, London W8 7RW. Tel: 01-837 7244 or its associate agent in Geneva, A & C Associates SA, 4 Cours de Rive, 1204 Geneva. Tel: (022) 21 15 88.

Diana Wildman

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Special deal that lives on

A message from the President

This Bicentenary issue examines the world's most powerful nation as it prepares for the challenges of the year 2000



From the War of Independence to the Second World War, relations between Britain and the United States were at best often suspicious or hostile. But the other side of the coin, and British condescension was matched by Yankee brash self-confidence.

Those brought up on the notion of hands across the sea will probably find this surprising. I still find it surprising. But for another reason. The founder of the United States were 18th-century English gentlemen, children of the Enlightenment who knew their Locke as well as Tom Paine. Alexander Hamilton believed that the British form of government was a model for the world. They had a deep respect for English law.

The Declaration of Independence cited the abolition of the free system of English laws by George III as one reason for dissolving the political bands which had connected the 13 colonies to the Mother Country. The patriots of Virginia, whose forefathers remained loyal to the crown during Britain's revolution and had welcomed the Restoration, were fox hunters who would have been at home in the shires. They had many friends in Britain.

The peace treaty, ratified in 1783, could have been a disaster. It had been expected to create a long after-warward became known as the special relationship. Britain came to terms with other former colonies, but it was not to be. Both Britain and the United States were eager to follow new destinies.

With an enormous subcontinent to explore and settle, George Washington did not have to warn the American nation in his farewell address to avoid entangling alliances. The westward trek had resumed after the war and when the constitution was being drafted in 1787, about 18,000 men, women and children, the equivalent of the population of Boston at the time, were counted floating on flatboats down the Ohio river to the frontier.

Britain was being transformed by the industrial revolution and was busy founding a second and larger empire. India and the East Indies were more alluring than the former colonies stretched thinly along the Atlantic seaboard and trade with China promised more than tobacco, dried fish and masts for the navy.

The War of 1812, which was really about land, Canadian land, did not help. Many Canadians saw it as their war of independence - that is, independence from the United States - and certainly their frontier was recognized by many Americans with reluctance.

The differences between the two countries widened with accelerating speed, although Tocqueville, the author of *Democracy in America*, saw little or no difference between the rising middle classes in Britain's new industrial towns and American cities. In the United States, patrician rule was brought to an abrupt end by the election of President Andrew Jackson.

Jacksonian democracy was no doubt crude, but in organizing the world's first political party the seventh president gave ordinary Americans some say in the running of God's own country. Jackson hated the British - he was badly treated when taken prisoner during the War of Independence - and other Americans of British stock did not always inherit happy memories of their erstwhile homeland. Those from Ireland, nurtured in ancient wrongs, and the immigrants from central and southern Europe who came later knew nothing about Britain except the myths of colonial oppression.

The two countries had drifted further apart by 1939. Ramsay MacDonald was the only prime minister between the two world wars who can be said to have had a genuine admiration and friendship for Americans. Certainly the Soviet Union of Stalin had a greater appeal for some British intellectuals than the United States of Franklin Roosevelt. Isolationism was triumphant in Congress, and the American ambassador in London, Joseph Kennedy, advised against helping Britain in the coming struggle against Hitler.

It seemed that more than the political bands between them had been dissolved, but fortunately much had survived the decades of rivalry and suspicion. Families now known as the establishment had maintained personal and cultural connections, and the South's sentimental attachment to the Atlantic seaboard roots, and the great American jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes was in his time as well known in Britain as Blackstone once was in the United States. There was also that unique Anglo-American jurist from Vienna, Felix Frankfurter.

The common language was a powerful factor, especially in literature and journalism. Lord Bryce was honoured for his classic book *The American Commonwealth*, and Adolph Ochs modelled *The New York Times* on *The Times*, and bought its foreign news service. Rhodes scholars brought some of the best and brightest American graduates to Oxford, and great English families had come to depend upon heiresses from New York to maintain the splendours to which they had grown accustomed. They produced Anglo-Americans such as Winston Churchill and Harold Macmillan.

This helped eventually to bring about the special relationship, but did not explain it. The men who served under Roosevelt may have been Anglophiles, but the president came to Britain's assistance because

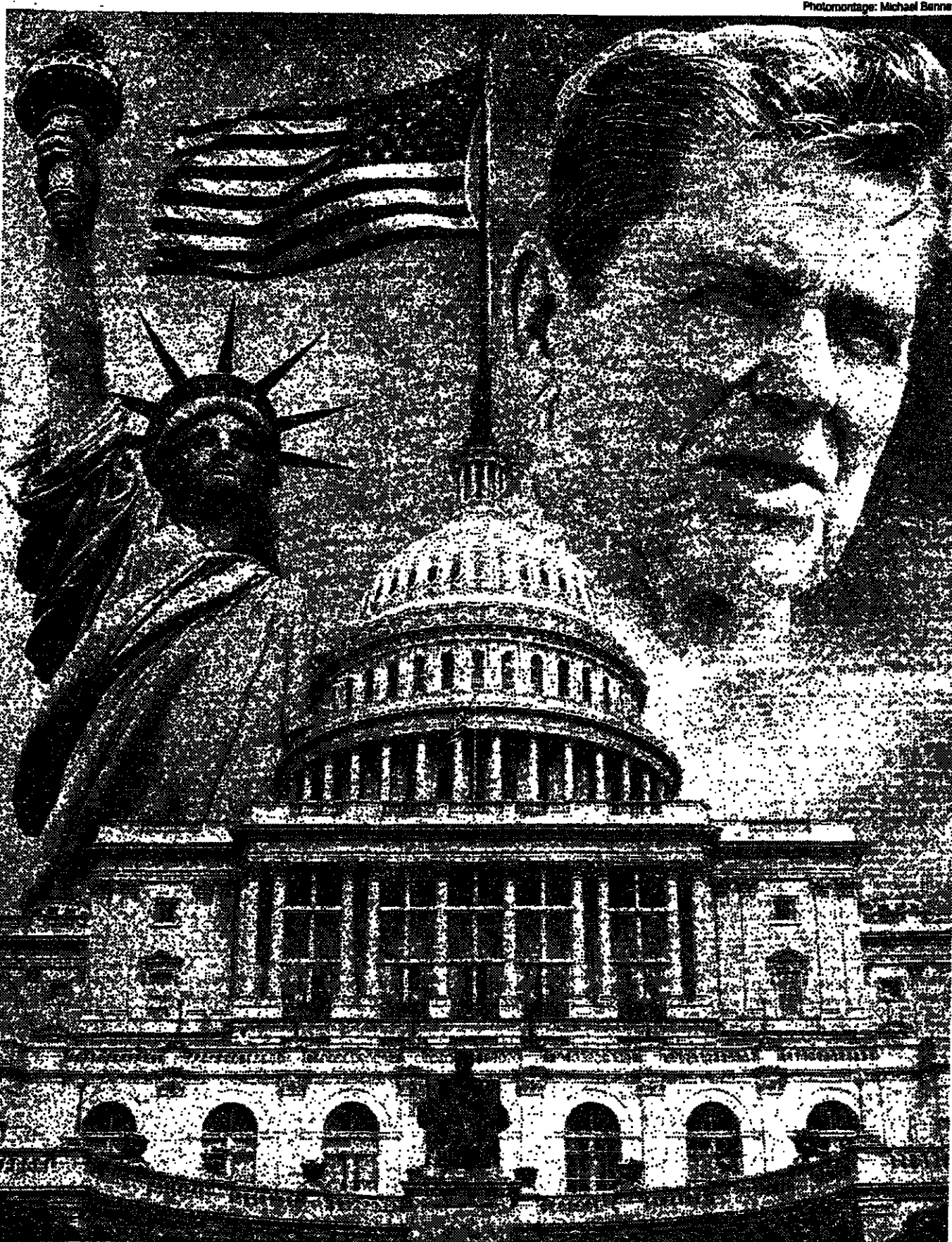
its survival served the American national interest.

The special relationship amounted essentially to close co-operation in defence and diplomacy, and was unique. I cannot recall a more successful alliance, but British assumptions that it would continue indefinitely were wishful thinking. The United States emerged from the war as a superpower.

The relationship was doomed by the great and growing disparity in wealth, power and influence, and the death notice was served by Dean Acheson, the former secretary of state and a true friend of Britain, in a speech at West Point in 1962.

"Great Britain has lost an empire and has not yet found a role. The attempt to play a separate power role - that is, a role apart from Europe, a role based on a 'special relationship' with the United States... this role is about to be played out."

It took a long time dying, and later Henry Kissinger had another go in his book *The Troubled Partnership*. Because of the special relationship, he wrote, many Americans believed that Britain had been claiming influence out of proportion to its power. They objected to giving Britain a



Photomontage: Michael Bennett

preferential voice, and thought that the old wartime ally should be treated simply as another European country. It must have sounded harsh at the time; however, Kissinger added that because of the unique ties of language and culture, Anglo-American relations would be special whatever the formal arrangements.

Kissinger was right. Britain could never be Greece to the American Rome, as Macmillan once hoped; in fact, we have as much to learn from Americans, as they have from us, but Anglo-American relations - real relationships between two peoples - have probably never been better since the war. Suez and Vietnam have been largely forgotten. Low-cost flights have enabled many Britons to visit the United States, and millions of Americans come here every year.

They like what they see and the people they meet. As Lord Home said to the Pilgrims in New York in 1772, "We are friends now. We must keep it that way."

Louis Heren

Chief Washington Correspondent of The Times, from 1968-1970.

The daily press of events often leaves one little time to reflect on the future, so I welcome *The Times* invitation to write about my vision of America in the year 2000. It is appropriate that I do so in the pages of the oldest national daily newspaper in the world, a symbol of freedom older than our own Constitution.

Unlike most nations, the United States was founded on a vision. We see our history as a constant striving toward the vision set down in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. That vision is of a nation where every person, regardless of background or beliefs, is free to realize his or her full potential.

All Americans today have the freedom to think and worship as they please. The vast majority have the freedom to find fulfillment in their work, in their quality of life, and with their loved ones.

We will not be satisfied until every American knows this freedom. The remaining barriers to self-fulfillment are largely economic in nature, so economic growth is the key to future opportunity. This growth depends on keeping government out of the way of human talent and initiative. Where people are free to pursue their ideas and dreams, prosperity and opportunity are the rule. Where government becomes the people's master, rather than their servant, creativity is stifled and progress impeded.

Government has an essential role to play, but there can no longer be any doubt that the true source of economic growth is the individual, not the state.

If we stick by this truth, the opportunity for fulfillment that most Americans know today can be available to even more by the year 2000. My vision is one where poverty will be greatly reduced. Technology, however, will be making unprecedented advances in spreading knowledge and facilitating human comfort - science will have immeasurably enhanced life and, I pray, found a cure for cancer and other dread diseases.

If other nations follow the path of economic freedom, and uphold a system of free and fair trade, then more rapid economic growth will surge throughout the world. Expanding opportunity will be an international phenomenon. And the more advanced nations will be able to be more generous in helping those nations in need. The gap between developed and developing nations will narrow.

Indeed, many of the latter will join the ranks of the former.

The exercise of freedom presupposes peace. I pray that as we look back from the year 2000, we will be able to contrast with the horrors of the first half of the century, the relative peace of the second half. I do not expect the stark differences between the democracies and the totalitarian countries to have vanished, so I see an America and a Western Alliance that have maintained their strength and resolve such that no aggressor could have thought he could gain from war. If we do this, my prayer will be met.

The United States will continue to rely on deterrence to keep the peace, but it will be a safer, more stable kind of deterrence than today's. Rather than rely solely on the threat of retaliation - of avenging lives lost - it will be based more on the ability to defend human lives against nuclear attack. Our Strategic Defence Initiative is a research programme, so I cannot predict at what stage we will find ourselves in 2000.

I am an optimist, however, and I have to believe the same scientific and engineering genius that sent a man to the moon will find ways to make feasible defences against ballistic missiles, defences that are survivable against countermeasures and are cost-effective. If the Soviet Union sees the potential of such defences in its own research programme, as I believe it will, perhaps it will agree with us on a cooperative transition to a system of deterrence based on a stable balance of defence and offence - at sharply lower levels of offensive forces than today. Such an outcome would enable us to move some time in the next century towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. A strong conventional deterrent would, however, remain vital.

Continued Western resolve could lead to the most hopeful development of all. Frustrated in its expansionist aims, and recognizing the imperative for change at home, the Soviet Union could agree with us to turn our competition away from armaments to competition in benefiting mankind. We are not afraid of such competition. Is Mr Gorbachev? I call on him to join us, today, in this new context. Mankind would then be able to look towards the new century, the third millennium of the modern era, with an optimism and hope justified as never before.

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AUGUST 6, 1861
[THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN]

William Howard Russell is best known for his reporting of the Crimean War, but he also covered the American Civil War with great distinction. The following extracts are from his celebrated account of the flight of the Northern army. Parts of it were reprinted in the American newspapers, making his position untenable and leading to his withdrawal from the country.

"Turn back! Retreat!" shouted the men from the front. "We're whipped, we're whipped!" They cursed and yelled at the horses' heads, and struggled with frenzy to get past. Running by me on foot was a man with the shoulder-strap of an officer. "Pray what is the matter, Sir?" "It means we're pretty badly whipped, and that's a fact," he burst out in puffs and continued his career. I observed that he carried no sword.

The teamsters of the advancing wagons now caught up the cry. "Turn back - turn your horses!" was the shout up the whole line, and backing, plunging, rearing, and kicking, the horses which had been proceeding down the road reversed front and went off towards Centerville. These behind them went madly rushing on, the drivers being quite indifferent whether

glory or disgrace led the way, provided they could find it. . . . Negro servants on led horses dashed frantically past men in uniform whom it were a disgrace to the profession of arms to call "soldiers," swarmed by on mules, chargers, and even draught horses, which had been cut out of carts or wagons, and went on with harness clinging to their heels, as frightened as their



Civil War in America. The stampede from Bull Run, 1861

riders. Men literally screamed with rage and fright when their way was blocked up. On I rode, asking all: "What is all this about?" and now and then, but rarely, receiving the answer. "We're whipped," or "We're routed." Faces black and dusty, tongues out in the heat, eyes staring - it was a most wonderful sight. . . .

I was just about to ask one of the men for a light, when a spluttering fire on my right attracted my attention, and out of the forest or along the road rushed a number of men. The gunners seized the trail of the nearest piece to wheel it round upon them; others made for the tumble and horses as if to fly, when a shout was raised. "Don't fire, they're our own men," and

in a few minutes on came pell-mell a whole regiment in disorder. I rode across one and stopped him. "We're pursued by cavalry," he gasped. "They've cut us all to pieces." As he spoke a shell burst over the column; another dropped on the road, and out streamed another column of men, keeping together with their

arms, and closing up the stragglers of the first regiment. I turned, and to my surprise saw the artillerymen had gone off, leaving one gun standing by itself. They had retreated with their horses. . . .

Drivers flogged, lashed, spurred, and beat their horses, or leaped down and abandoned their teams, and ran by the side of the road; mounted men, servants, and men in uniform, vehicles of all sorts, commissariat wagons thronged the narrow ways.

At every shot a convulsion, as it were, seized upon the morbid mass of bones, sinew, wood, and iron, and thrilled through it, giving new energy and action to its desperate efforts to get free from itself.

Again the cry of "Cavalry" arose. "What are you afraid of?" said I to a man who was running beside me. "I'm not afraid of you," replied the ruffian, leveling his piece at me and pulling the trigger. It was not loaded or the cap was not on, for the gun did not go off.

And so the flight went on. At one time a whole mass of infantry, with fixed bayonets, ran down the bank of the road, and some falling as they ran must have killed and wounded those among whom they fell. As I knew the road would soon become impassable or blocked up, I put my horse to a gallop and passed on towards the front.

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Despair grows in
the grain belt

The American farmer, plaid-shirted individualist, imbued with the frontier spirit, is a familiar picture in this sentimental land.

Ronald Reagan used the image frequently during his 1984 election campaign, and the smiling yeoman and his rosy-checked wife came to personify the president's traditional values of hard work, family, freedom and independence.

But there is a darker side. Despair is running deep across the Mid-Western grain belt, the most productive agricultural land in the world. Hundreds of thousands of farmers are in deep financial trouble. They are facing their worst economic crisis since the depression. Many of the farms will not survive.

America has 2.1 million farms, but 70 per cent are small operations, often run as a sideline by part-time farmers who also work in offices, shops and factories. These people are getting by, thanks to other income, but many of them will either close or be taken over by larger enterprises.

The most severe financial crisis is being acutely felt by the 700,000 full-time family farmers who grow between \$50,000 and \$200,000 worth of produce a year on medium-sized farms of between 400 and 800 acres.

They have spent their lives on the land, as their parents and grandparents before them, and who expected to see their children follow them into the family business, but who now face ruin instead.

About a third of them are so deeply in debt that bankruptcy is a real possibility. They have difficulty in paying interest on their loans, and may have to give up their farms. Mid-Western newspapers are full of notices of farm sales and foreclosures. Despairing farmers, stretched to their credit limit, no longer able to borrow enough money to stay in business, are becoming severely depressed and breaking under the strain. Alcoholism and suicide rates are rising in the rural areas. And so is violence.

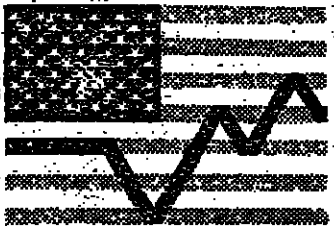
As farmers give up their land, rural towns which depend on them are also facing crisis. Shops are closing, schools are closing. Young people are seeking work elsewhere, leaving a disproportionate number of elderly people in the towns.

Hollywood took up the cause in films like *Country* in which a heavily indebted farmer seeks solace in drink while his wife battles against heavy odds to keep the family farm going. And Country and Western music

Because the government's policies force it to buy up surplus stock, bumper crops mean that the US holds most of the world's surplus grain. But major droughts have slashed food production in Africa, and millions depend on outside food donations. US agricultural economists want to see more efficient distribution of these surpluses to the hungry in other parts of the world. But all this will take time, and meanwhile farms will continue to close, and more and more farmers will have to quit the heartlands.

Penny Symon

Uncertain future for the mighty dollar



The US economy, once the unchallenged leader of the post World War years, is drifting into murky waters. Saddled with massive trade and budget deficits, its future is uncertain.

Even the normally optimistic US Business Council, comprising the heads of America's largest corporations, foresees an economy that, at best, will only "muddle through" for the rest of this year and next.

The council, scaling back sharply its earlier projections, foresees a "growth-recession" through 1986 with gains projected at a weak 2.1 per cent in 1985 and 2.5 per cent for 1986. At the same time, unemployment will remain "stuck" at a high post-war level of more than 7 per cent.

This is the consensus of America's business leaders. A growing number believe even this dismal assessment is too optimistic. Looking into their crystal balls, they see another destabilizing recession.

How did the world's largest economy, the powerful locomotive of post-war growth, enter such a perilous period?

The answer, simply stated, is through the accumulation of unprecedented fiscal and budget deficits.

Indeed, the huge US fiscal deficit, projected at close to \$200 billion this year, and its

unhealthy offspring - the high dollar, high interest rates, a record trade imbalance - is now perceived as an international threat likely to persist for the rest of the decade.

Deficits and dollars are to the mid-1980s what runaway inflation was to the early 1980s and the oil crises, marked by heretofore unimaginable OPEC surpluses, was to the mid 1970s.

But the current crisis appears potentially more disabling than the others because of a host of related problems.

As the US trade deficit has grown, to a projected \$150 billion this year, protectionism of the sort not encountered since the great depression has reared its head. Hostility against Japan, in particular, is strong in American cities.

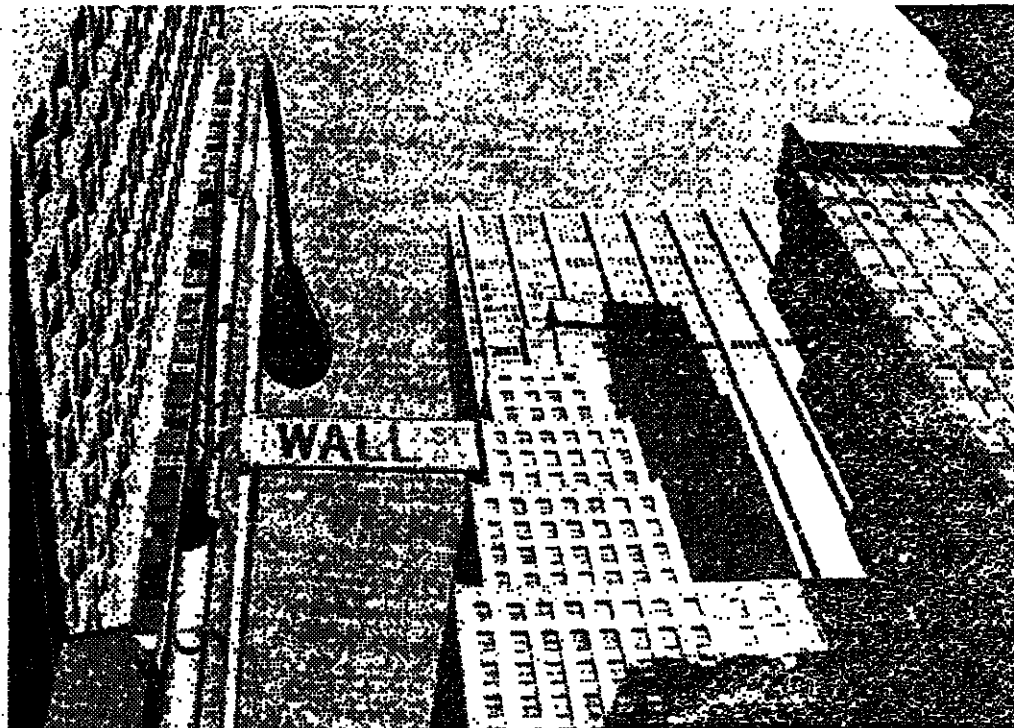
The strong dollar and high interest rates have increased the burden of developing countries struggling to overcome an international debt crisis which

US manufacturing
firms are reeling

is again heating up. Interest rates for favoured borrowers are projected to average from 9 per cent to 11.5 per cent in the second half.

American manufacturing companies, giants of the post-war years, are reeling under the impact of the high dollar and a flood of imports. US industrial production this year is expected to grow by a feeble 2.4 per cent and next year by just 2.8 per cent.

Business investment in plant and equipment is also down sharply from a record increase last year of 19.8 per cent.



New York's financial centre, Wall Street: Scene of the big crash in 1929. In 1985 the US has become a debtor nation for the first time since World War One

reflecting the then booming economy.

This year, as economic growth faded to just 1.1 per cent in the first half, the business investment boom ended, growing by only 4.9 per cent in the first half. For all of this year, growth is forecast at 3.9 per cent, with a further slow down next year to 2.8 per cent.

In September, the United States became a debtor nation for the first time since the First World War, owing the rest of the world an estimated \$30 billion.

Under current policy, economists estimate, the US foreign debt will exceed \$1 trillion by 1990, an unsustainable level.

At the rate federal debt is now growing, from a low point in 1974 to a record 6.1 per cent of gross national product in 1983, economists expect deficits to average 4.7 per cent of gnp in the 1985-1989 period.

What will be the effect of such large persistent deficits? Although some of the chilling effects are now apparent, it is none the less true that the world

has never before encountered structural deficits of this magnitude. In this case, history is no guide.

But Stephen Morris, senior fellow of the International Institute for Economics, says the massive imbalances caused by the deficits cannot be allowed to continue. "There is no choice but to narrow them. The question is whether the deficits will be narrowed in an orderly way or at great cost to global economic stability."

At this point the answer is

unclear. The Reagan administration and the US Congress are again embroiled in a battle, triggered by a proposed balanced budget amendment, on how to reduce the deficit. Should there be tax increases or additional big spending cuts? Should social security and defence spending be included in the cuts? The politics rage on.

At the same time, the group of five industrial nations have taken steps to co-ordinate intervention in currency markets to depress the value of the dollar.

Few people believe the intervention exercise will work over the longer term without changes in the domestic economic policies of Japan, West Germany and Britain.

They are being pressed to stimulate their economies to trigger more growth, thus taking up the slack caused by the US decline.

The politics are difficult; the

Few are willing
to predict anything

uncertainties great. This is why few people are willing to predict anything better for the US economy than a period of just muddling through.

In its official forecast, the administration projects growth this year of 3.9 per cent, well above private and Congressional estimates.

If the dollar does not continue in its decline, if US monetary policy does not remain expansive, if exports do not begin to grow, if consumer spending drops off sharply, then the projections fall flat.

Bailey Morris

A high-rolling society in debt



The United States became a debtor nation this year for the first time since World War One. This, startling statistic says more about the current condition of America's mighty financial system than anything else.

It means that for the first time in 67 years, foreign ownership of US factories, real estate, stocks and bonds exceeds American ownership of foreign assets.

The US Commerce Department said that foreign investors increased their assets in the United States during the first half of the year by \$39.5 billion. Meanwhile, American investment abroad rose by only \$3.2 billion, resulting in a net gain to foreigners of \$36.3 billion.

Commerce officials said it appeared that this net gain had wiped out the small US surplus of \$28.2 billion recorded at the end of last year.

Becoming a debtor nation is not necessarily a bad thing if the investment is used for productive purposes. But a large portion of the foreign invest-

ment in America, an estimated \$13.5 billion, is not being used to build factories but to purchase Treasury securities that finance the Government's enormous budget deficits.

Indeed, the accumulation of debt is becoming a hallmark of the boisterous US economy marked by the most highly developed capital markets in the world.

Paul Volcker warned of the dangers in a recent speech at Harvard University. "We spend our days, issuing debt and retiring equity, both in record volume, and then we spend our evenings raising each other's

There are no
easy answers

eyebrows with gossip about stress in the financial system... all the while, productivity still lags," Mr Volcker said.

There can be little doubt, however, that the United States is a high-rolling society, continuing a trend that began in the high inflation years of the late 1970s. Credit-market debt has risen sharply to 1.95 times the gross national product, up from 1.68 ten years ago.

Corporate takeovers, often financed by "junk bonds" and other highly leveraged assets, are epidemic. Daily volume on the New York Stock Exchange, where prices have been soaring,

is estimated at 108 million shares daily, up almost 50 million shares a day from 1980. Volume in government securities markets is four times 1980 levels, averaging about \$76 billion a day. And activity in the speculative world of financial futures and options trading is almost too vast to quantify.

One company alone last year, First Boston Corporation, handled trades of all that largely an estimated \$4.1 trillion, more than the entire US gross national product.

To what economic purpose? There are no easy answers. Some analysts believe there is a strong positive side to the US borrowing boom. By running a current account deficit of more than \$100 billion, the United States has, in effect, launched a 1980s-style Marshall Plan, consuming the world's exports at a record rate - keeping the global economy afloat through trade.

But what happens when the buying binge stops? Mr Rimmer de Vries, senior economist for Morgan Guaranty Bank, says: "We have a \$100 billion question. How is the world going to get along in three or four years without \$100 billion US current account deficits?"

Almost no one suggests that the boom should last. The United States has paid a high price for its deficit-driven growth as evidence by the steep

decline in the manufacturing sector.

American competitiveness is declining - the financial system is under severe strain. Mortgage delinquencies have risen to 6.19 per cent, the highest level in 24 years, and banks and savings associations are failing at a rapid rate. Over the past five years, more than 800 savings associations have been either merged or closed. Last year, 79 US banks failed, the highest number since 1937 and this year the number is already higher, up to more than 90.

Clearly, the brakes must be put on or the United States

Mortgage delinquencies
have also risen

risks becoming what *Business Week* magazine described in a recent cover story as the "casino society."

The term was borrowed from John Maynard Keynes who wrote in 1936: "Speculators may do no harm as bubbles on a steady stream of enterprise. But the true position is serious when enterprise becomes the bubble on a whirlpool of speculation. When the capital development of a country becomes a by-product of the activities of a casino, the job is likely to be ill-done."

BM

America's vital statistics

Government: The President is elected for a four-year term and may be re-elected only once.

The Senate has 100 members and is presently Republican controlled. The House of Representatives has 435 members and currently has a Democrat majority.

Area: 3,540,939 sq miles.

Population: About 237.2 million (estimated January 1985). Average annual growth is one per cent.

Density per square mile: 65.9.

Capital: Washington D. C. Population about 635,000 (1982 estimate).

Religions: Protestant (about 73.5 million members) - Roman Catholic (51.2 million) - Jewish (5.9 million).

Economic summary: Gross national product (1984) about \$3,662.8 billion - per

capita personal income (1984) \$12,728. Labour force in agriculture 2.7 per cent.

Principal products: Maize, wheat, barley, oats, sugar, potatoes, soybeans, fruit, beef, veal, pork.

Labour force in non-agricultural occupations: 97.3 per cent.

Major industrial products: Petroleum products, fertilizers, cement, pig iron and steel, plastics and resins, newsprint, motor vehicles, machinery, natural gas, electricity.

Natural resources: Coal, oil, water power, copper, gold, silver, minerals, timber.

Exports: Machinery, chemicals, aircraft, military equipment, cereals, motor vehicles, grains.

Imports: Crude and partly refined oil, machinery, automobiles.

JULY 2, 1929
[THE WALL STREET
CRASH]

The Wall Street crash of 1929 received only minor coverage in *The Times*, and that largely on the City page, during its early stages. But on November 2, a long and detailed report headed 'THE WALL STREET COLLAPSE... EFFECT ON BUSINESS' appeared on one of the main news pages. The New York correspondent of *The Times* reported:

There is a wide disparity in the views expressed by Government officials, industrialists, business men and bankers as to the probable effect of the recent Stock Market collapse on general business. Some of these views are obviously coloured by the feeling which existed when the crisis was on, that nothing should be said except what was reassuring, and others are genuinely sanguine, but there are many which manifest anxiety.

Hardly anyone, however, seems to anticipate more than a slowing down of business

activity... The hysteria has now disappeared from Wall Street, and the possibility of further panic in the Stock Market seems remote...

Eight days later, however, the New York correspondent was reporting the suicide of a leading banker.

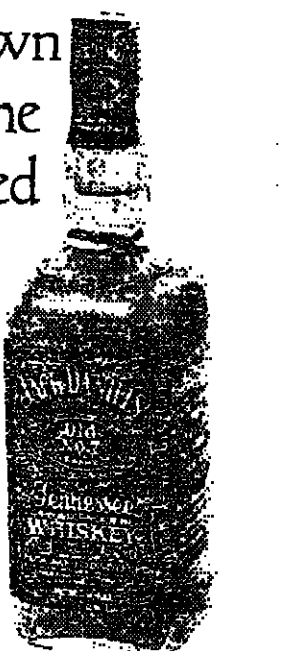
Mr James J. Riordan, President of the City Trust Company, and an intimate friend of the former Governor of New York State, was found shot dead in his bedroom late on Friday afternoon, but his death was kept secret until after banking hours yesterday because of the fear of Mr Riordan's business associates that it might start a run on the bank.

In order to avert such an incident, or at worst to prepare the bank to meet it, the directors on Friday night set accountants to work to bring the balance-sheet up to date, and last night they brought into the bank in an armoured lorry several hundred thousand dollars in cash.

He also reported on the same day that a 22-year-old concert pianist, Miss Margaret Shorwell, had lost nearly one million dollars through speculation and owed her broker a further \$50,000.

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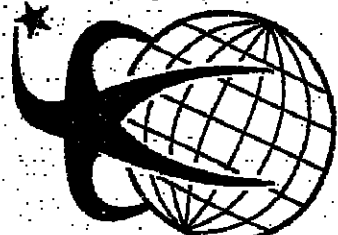
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The Russian bogey that won't go away



United States policy over the past 40 years has, despite domestic upheavals, shown remarkable consistency. Since the end of the Second World War it has rested on three fundamentals: the alliance with Western Europe, hostility to Soviet communism, and defence of what are perceived as American vital interests around the globe, especially in the Western Hemisphere, Japan and the Middle East.

The overwhelming preoccupation has been how to deal with the Russians. The disenchantment with the erstwhile wartime ally, alarm over Soviet expansionism into Eastern Europe, the Soviet acquisition of nuclear weapons and the awesome build-up of Soviet military might — all these have led to policies on which most US actions and initiatives have been based. The responses have moved from confrontation, as in the Berlin airlift and Korea, through containment, as in the creation of regional security pacts, to détente, and now to a somewhat unstable combination of all three.

The fierce ideological clash with Soviet — and for a while,

Chinese — communism has been at the heart of US policy, no matter who the president or which party the administration.

The Second World War shook the US out of its self-imposed sequestration. And with the Cold War challenge of Stalin's Russia, Americans realized that henceforth their values could never again be defended by withdrawing into Fortress America.

The defence of freedom around the globe has been the keynote of every incoming president. Not seeking to be the world's policeman, the US has nevertheless responded to the sentiments behind President Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner", and President Johnson's commitment to Vietnam, with determination often backed by military action in far corners of the globe.

The policies have had a variety of names: Containment, the Truman Doctrine, the Domino Theory, Detente, Tri-lateralism. But the aim has always been the same: to keep the Russians at bay. The costs have been increasingly high, both militarily and psychologically. And as nuclear weapons made the spectre of world destruction ever more terrifyingly possible — culminating in the Cuba missile crisis of 1962, when east and west stood on the edge of the nuclear abyss — so public pressure has grown for an end to armed confrontation. The search for a *modus vivendi* with the Russians has

become as important nowadays, even for President Reagan, as confronting The Evil Empire.

Arms control, since the Nixon era, has become the yardstick for measuring relations with the Soviet Union — almost, nowadays, to the exclusion of all else. Three treaties with the Russians have been signed — the anti-ballistic missile and strategic arms limitations treaties of 1972 and SALT 2 (which was never ratified) in 1979.

But as ever more weapons are deployed, new technologies discovered and mutual suspicions reinforced, so the search has continued for further reductions. And it is in this field that American policy has undergone one of its most

profound changes since the explosion of the atom bomb. For President Reagan's attempt to protect mankind with a strategic defence shield repudiates the doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) to which all Western defence policy has been based until now.

Whether the Strategic Defence Initiative is feasible, and the transition to security based purely on defence rather than offence can be managed, will be clearer after the Geneva summit.

Ironically, arms control has given a new lease of life to that other pillar of American foreign policy, Transatlanticism. For while other regional security pacts have faded into history —

the Baghdad Pact, Cento, Seato and now perhaps even Anzus — Nato has remained the cornerstone of the Western democracies' cooperation. The Alliance doctrine of negotiating through strength with the Russians has spawned unprecedented political consultation in recent years.

The Western Alliance has not always been harmonious. The Americans have resented the lack of European support over Vietnam. The Europeans have been bewildered by flip-flops in American policies such as over the neutron bomb. And the strain in carrying out the 1979 dual-track decision to deploy intermediate weapons while negotiation with Moscow for their removal led to massive

and violent demonstrations in Europe against the US and Nato.

But despite periodic outbursts here against the pusillanimous Europeans, accompanied by ominous threats from former senator Mike Mansfield or Senator Sam Nunn to withdraw US troops, the basic US commitment to Western Europe remains as strong as it was when Marshall Aid rescued a war-shattered continent. Even the conservatives of the Reagan era who criticize Euro-possibilism, and those who feel the US interests lie more in the Pacific and are constrained by the alliance with nations who refuse to stand up to the Russians, have made little real mark on US policy in the present administration.

The third constant in postwar US policy has been Washington's vigorous defence of its special interests in certain areas. These may be historic, as in Latin America, where the Monroe Doctrine still holds sway, US insistence on keeping out all foreign, especially communist, influence in the western hemisphere explains such reflex actions as the attempted invasion of Cuba, the toppling of Salvador Allende in Chile, the interventions in the Dominican Republic and Grenada, and now the sabre-rattling over Nicaragua. None have won full support from America's allies.

These interests may also be strategic or economic, such as



Looking to a brighter future: John Kennedy and Dr Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, in 1963

Persian Gulf oil. US actions there range from the restoration of the Shah of Iran in 1951, the arming of Saudi Arabia and the recent formation of a rapid deployment force for possible intervention. They explain the importance to the US of the "loss" of Iran and the anxiety that Soviet forces in Afghanistan may push on to the Gulf.

Japan is another area of vital interest. Its transformation from beaten adversary to trusted ally and economic giant, and its incorporation into the western world in all but name, is one of the great American success stories in postwar US policy. But the Middle East is perhaps the area of greatest American involvement — political, economic and psychological.

In the immediate postwar

years, the US left the field to Britain, but since the Suez crisis has itself been dominant. For historic reasons and because of domestic pressures, the commitment to Israel is total, and it is on this that all else rests — the search for a Middle East settlement, the involvement in Lebanon, the vast economic aid to Egypt, the personal mediation of presidents and secretaries of state. And until peace is established, that commitment and the equal determination to keep the Russians out, will remain.

These preoccupations of American policy in the world remain those of President Reagan. The only difference is that under him American nationalist sentiment plays a greater part in their treatment.

Michael Binyon



Battle fatigue: Troops in Grenada in January 1983 chatting to a local inhabitant

Defence spending battle goes on



The Great American Debate on Pentagon spending cuts rages on, even as President Reagan calls for bipartisan support for strong defence and prepares for his Geneva summit meeting with the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Senators and members of the House of Representatives, facing a federal budget deficit of about \$200 billion this year, are regrouping in their battle to slash the Defense Department's fiscal 1986 budget request for about \$314 billion. This represents a real increase in budget authority over the current year of about 5.9 per cent.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger describes this increase as "both prudent and essential" to maintaining America's readiness "in the face of the Soviet Union's huge conventional and nuclear build-up over the past decade."

As President Reagan puts finishing touches to his Geneva negotiating position on his controversial Star Wars Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) and nuclear missiles reduction issues, Les Aspin, chairman of the influential House Armed Service Committee, is on the budget-cutting warpath with support from many Democrats and Republicans.

Mr Aspin (Democrat, Wisconsin) claims that despite the largest US defence spending in peace-time history, the Pentagon has achieved "minuscule improvements" in the nation's military readiness, technology and weapons inventory.

Releasing a 25-page collection of statistics, he said that during the past four years "we've spent a trillion dollars on defence under Ronald Reagan and there's a considerable question over what we've gotten for our money."

Mr Aspin, a proponent of strong defence and a staunch supporter of Nato, asked: "Has the Administration just been throwing money at a problem? Is Ronald Reagan doing with defence what he accused previous administrations of doing with social welfare — just throwing billions at the problem, and then the statistics show that poverty remains rampant?"

Only in the personnel area did the figures clearly demonstrate real improvements for money invested, he observed, but added that weapons inventories had grown minimally.

Referring to earlier charges of cost overruns or poorly managed programmes, or weapons that consumed billions of dollars only to be cancelled because they did not work, Mr Aspin said: "When historians look back and record the mismanagement of American defence, they may not refer to the \$600 wrench or \$7,000 coffee pot, or the inter-service rivalry that plagues our armed forces. ... We failed to develop a coherent national security policy and instead succumbed to a kind of 'Maoist Line mentality' — an irrelevant policy that spelled defeat."

But Mr Weinberger immediately counter-attacked saying that Congressional cutbacks in

defence spending would weaken the military forces and nuclear deterrent posture of the US and increase "the risks of Soviet aggression and war."

He described President Reagan's strategic modernization programme — which began in 1981 with a trillion-dollar plan and includes the production and deployment of the giant 10-warhead MX missile — as a strategy and its allies as it "must minimize the risk of failure through any accident, unauthorised use or miscalculation by the Soviets."

Mr Weinberger, a believer in "negotiations through strength" with the Kremlin, is now struggling with Congress to get funds for several key strategic and tactical nuclear systems and also for strengthening conventional forces.

Recognizing that many in Congress and many citizens believed that the American defence build-up should now stop or even be cut back, he warned that the US could cut its defence spending, but not without weakening its military forces. "The US can weaken our military forces but not without weakening our deterrent. And we can, of course, weaken our deterrent, but not without increasing the risks of Soviet aggression and war."

He served notice to his critics that he would continue to push for big increases in defence spending to continue closing "the window of vulnerability" that President Reagan found on taking office in January 1981.

Mr Weinberger's critics have charged that his stubbornness in refusing to bow to Congressional demands this year to slow the rate of defence increases led in part to the defeat of some of the President's build-up plans.

Mr John Collins, a senior specialist in international affairs for the Congressional Research Service, said US military power in 1985 is significantly improved over 1981. "What the trillion dollars did was ensure that deterrence did not erode dangerously. But it did not increase combat capabilities that much if deterrence fails," he told a House Armed Service Committee panel.

He said the US lagged behind the Soviet Union in many quantitative measures of military strength — manpower, armour, artillery, fighter planes, attack submarines, etc.

But because of the assurance that "if we go off the map, they go off the map too", the chances of a Soviet attack are "between zero and minus 8 million", Mr Collins observed.

He endorsed research into the SDI, telling the panel that the side with the ability to get a system in place "picks up all the marbles and goes home. ... The people who say it's impossible to get an SDI breakthrough just could be wrong, and you're playing with the survival of the nation."

On another front, the Pentagon attacked sweeping Congressional recommendations to reorganize the US military leadership. A Senate Armed Services Committee staff report said the Defence Department was plagued by inter-service rivalries, a cumbersome military command and control structure, and problems on weapons procurement.

Mohsin Ali

BULLETIN FROM THE BATTLEFRONT

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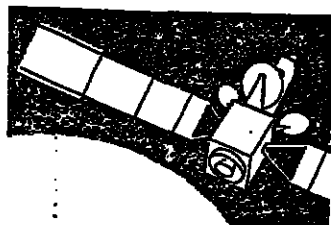
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THE UNITED STATES
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FOCUS

The cost of first place
in the race for space

"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." With those now famous words, Neil Armstrong described his first hesitant steps on the moon, as the entire world looked on. That was 16 years ago.

Today the United States is preparing for another historic leap in space. James M. Beggs, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), believes that by 1992, the 500th anniversary of the landing by Columbus in the New World, America will be putting the first man on its first space station - man's first permanent foothold in space.

In his State of the Union address last year, President Reagan announced a comprehensive plan aimed at maintaining US leadership in space well into the 21st century.

The plan has three major initiatives: a proposal to build a permanently manned space station so that Americans can be living and working in space within a decade; and invitation to America's friends and allies, including Britain, to participate in the space station programme; and a programme to stimulate cooperation by the US government and industry in developing the commercial potential of space.

The space station is being designed and built by NASA for \$8 billion through the early 1990s. Its modular elements would be launched by the Space Shuttle and assembled in low earth orbit. The station would provide work space, utilities (electricity, data processing, thermal control), docking ports and living quarters for a crew of six to eight who would rotate every three to six months.

The station will permit the commercial use of space in such areas as the manufacture of critical materials and pharmaceuticals not available on earth; the assembly, servicing and repair of satellites and other large structures in space; and research focused on extending man's staying time in space as a first step towards even more ambitious manned space programmes.

Meanwhile, the other superpower is also trying to reach for the stars. Soviet space officials said they expected to have a permanently manned space station by 1990 but that the Salyut 7 orbital laboratory would not be the spacecraft that hosts the crews.

The first ever in-flight crew rotation was accomplished aboard Salyut 7 station last month.

But for the Americans to get to their space station, which Mr Beggs sees as a stepping-stone to the future and the United States' pre-eminence in space, NASA has had its struggles and successes over the swift course of its lifetime, which began on October 1, 1958.

And these space feats have been open for all the world to see, beginning with the launch of the first American satellite, Explorer 1. They range from the succession of planetary explorers - the Mariners, the Voyagers - through the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programmes to the development of the \$12 billion Shuttle programme.

NASA now has four Shuttles - Columbia, Challenger, Discovery and Atlantis. They have completed 21 missions, mainly

show that public enthusiasm for the space programme is now even greater than during the halcyon days of the Apollo period. Today 67 per cent of the public views the programme favourably and the great majority of that group follows it very closely.

A non-official research centre has predicted that 15 years from now six space industries alone will generate \$17 billion to \$51 billion in commercial revenues. These industries include satellite communications, materials, processing, space transport and ground-based support.

The communications satellite industry today does more than \$2 billion of business each year and employs, directly or indirectly, more than one million people - mostly Americans.

More than 80 communications satellites are now in service and it is estimated that as many as 300 more will be required by the end of the century.

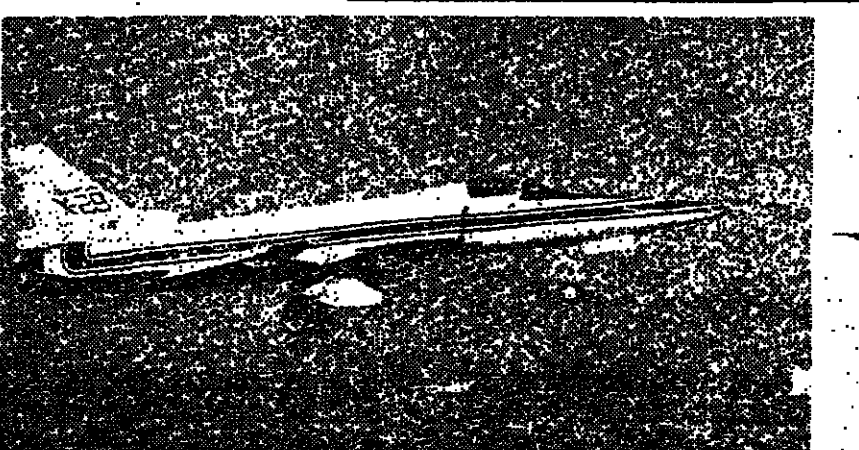
In July the first products made in space went on the market. They are called monodisperse latex spheres and are being sold by the National Bureau of Standards. Manufactures can use the spheres to calibrate scientific instruments and in the production of computer chips. Each is incredibly tiny - 10 micrometers in diameter - and all are equal in size, made with a precision impossible on earth.

NASA forecasts that the space station will be able to manufacture medicines that could enhance dramatically the treatment of such diseases as cancer and diabetes, make crystals for industrial use, larger and purer than those made on Earth, and high-strength metals and the temperature-resistant glasses and ceramics that are essential to power generation, propulsion, aviation and aerospace and related applications.

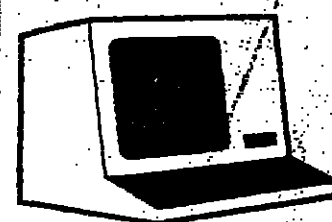
And so the space dream goes on - some day to get man back on to the moon and then to Mars.



MA



After the first man on the moon (centre left, clockwise) and first senator in space, Jake Garn, the next major step is a space station, which will be dependent on the Shuttle and space construction devices. Above: Grumman's X29A and Rockwell's B-1 lead the air defence effort.

Klondike rush in
hi-tech bonanza

The vast amounts of money that Japanese firms and governments are pouring into the "fifth generation" project have had their effects in America, more than in Europe, in stimulating an amazing burst of all types of research and development in computers and computing.

The effect, as here, is almost of a panic - a sense that America must catch up. But that panic has nothing to do with funding. It appears to be more concerned with direction: not "who shall pay for our work?" but rather, "what should we be trying to find out?"

The concept of a "fifth generation" of computers is based on advances expected in the field of artificial intelligence. Computers of the future, it is argued, will be able to a certain extent to think for themselves. They will learn from their own mistakes, draw their own conclusions and generally simulate some of the basic ways in which people arrive at decisions.

Unlike the situation in Britain, where computer research is suddenly a Cinderella, there are several major thrusts in US data processing research. First, there is the direct response to the Japanese initiative in a co-operative venture involving the 15 largest hardware and software companies in Austin, Texas.

This project, under ex-Navy admiral Robert Inman, is secret. It is apparently to be taken seriously. Inman, known as an energetic and demanding man, recently spoke on a public platform about his conviction that the consortium of research sponsors had, indeed, met his tough requirements for both money, and the "top research personnel, not just people they can't find a use for."

The university research program in this area is undergoing a bonanza. "There is never enough money, of course," said a Stanford researcher last week, "but at least things are now much better than they were in the 1960s when there was a slump."

And things are better, especially in equipment. At Massachusetts Institute of Technology research in collaboration with American and largest company, Digital Equipment, has led to the installation of between 30 and 40 VAX computers - large, fast, and none-too-cheap superminis. Other computer specialist colleges can report similar largesse.

Then there is the "commercial prudence" research and development program carried out by America's giant semiconductor and computer corporations.

This seems to work with the university establishment in a way unknown in Britain. Examples of this would be the number of undergraduates who are virtually owned, from the

PARC has spawned
many breakthroughs

time they enter college, through their vacation employment, and finally for a set number of years after graduation, by a sponsoring corporation.

The most striking example of this sort was the establishment of Xerox's famous Palo Alto Research Centre, PARC, which spawned most of the interesting ideas of the 1970s and which are now appearing in successful products.

Unfortunately, most of these ideas appeared in products from people who were not Xerox, - for example, Apple's Macintosh - and Xerox appears to have decided that PARC was too pure, and should be more pragmatic.

The question that isn't really answerable is: what will be the ideas generator of the next decade - the next PARC? Some say that the answer is obvious: Star Wars. America's Star Wars programme is, they say, a runaway gravy train, full of good things for the computer research scientist.

For, of the four main areas of American computer research, the Star Wars Strategic Defense Initiative is the one viewed most cynically by computer scientists. But if they have doubts about its feasibility, they do not all see any reason to complain.

However, the feeling that researchers are working on ideas which their sponsors cannot use and may even suppress, will bother many observers of American computing science, even if there is too much money around today to make them vocal in their anxiety.

Guy Kewney

Billions at stake in the air industry



The United States aerospace industry remains the largest of any in the Western world, with the most comprehensive inventory, from simple light aircraft to sophisticated space-craft, but its leaders now look over their shoulders with apprehension at the progress being made in both

technology and sales by aerospace in a united Europe.

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, the two major civil airliner manufacturers, have to fight hard today for every sale against the increasing "family" of airliners being developed by the European Airbus Industrie consortium of France, West Germany, Britain and Spain - and frequently lose.

US manufacturers allege that their opposite numbers in Europe win contracts on the back of subsidies paid by their governments. The Europeans riposte that the Americans build airliners with cross-subsidies

from the vast military contracts which they receive from their administration.

Each side watches the other, and the world market, intently, hoping to find a gap which is not filled. While the Europeans are launching a 150-seat airliner, the A320, powered by twin jets, Boeing has decided to wait until the aero-engine companies have developed a new generation of prop-fans before embarking on this size of aircraft.

In the meantime, both Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are upgrading their existing aircraft with the latest composite materials, avionics, electronics, and fuel-efficient engines and are finding a ready market among the airline industry.

The American aerospace companies shy away from the immense cost of developing a completely new civil type. This can be in the region of \$2 billion and is the reason why Boeing continues to extend the life of its Boeing 747 jumbo, with the series 400, flown by a two-man crew, and with computerized flight-deck instrumentation, about to go into production.

It is also the reason why the two big engine companies, General Electric and Pratt and Whitney, are collaborating with projects, the former in an exchange of technology with Rolls-Royce on large-fan engines, the latter in a consortium with British, West German, Italy, and Japan on the V2500 engine which will power 150-seat airliners.

Collaboration can also be seen working in the military sector of US aerospace, with McDonnell Douglas combining with British Aerospace to develop a second-generation Harrier vertical take-off fighter, with its wing made of composite material, and the Hawk jet trainer for the US Navy.

As in the civil sector, existing types are being improved so that they will fly on effectively into the next century.

The classic case is the Rockwell B-1 bomber. Cancelled by President Carter, it was resurrected by President Reagan and is now a massive

750 aircraft at \$35m each

programme with a \$20.5 billion total budget, and no fewer than 10,000 contractors and suppliers involved. The first of the 100 B-1Bs on order has been delivered, and operational squadrons will be forming next year. Each of America's classic fighters of the 1970s, the F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 is being modernised. The F-15, for instance, is being considered for development into a supersonic vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

This is not to suggest, however, that there are no new military aircraft on the drawing boards in US aerospace factories. Grumman is flying, under an \$80 million budget, two prototypes of its X-29A fighter, a remarkable design, with

forward-swept wings reputed to give better dog-fight manoeuvrability, and to be almost spin-proof. The search for a "stealth" aircraft which would be invisible to radar is being pursued in the greatest secrecy by Lockheed and others, while the USAF has recently asked rival defence contractors to bid for the development of an advanced tactical fighter.

Boeing, General Dynamics, Grumman, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, Northrop, and Rockwell are likely to compete, and the prize will be the manufacture of 750 aircraft at \$35 million each. As in the B-1B programme, thousands of contractors throughout US aerospace will be involved.

Like the civil sector, the military side of the American aircraft industry is watching Europe, one of its great traditional markets since world war II, become more self-sufficient, and about to embark on its own advanced fighter aircraft.

Sales of such aircraft to other countries also block potential US sales, as has recently happened with the purchase of the Anglo-West German-Italian Tornados by Saudi Arabia.

But even if some of its traditional foreign markets are eroded, there is no question that the US industry, with its immense capability and its vast home markets for both military and civil products, will remain as far as one can see ahead the dominant force in world aerospace.

Arthur Reed

Public fears over move to
use human gene therapy

Only 12 years have passed since scientists discovered how to change the genetic make-up of simple micro-organisms. But already several research groups in the United States are preparing to carry out human gene therapy.

Their first target is likely to be an extremely rare hereditary disease, called ADA deficiency, whose victims develop no immune defences and have to grow up isolated in a germ-free "bubble". It is caused by a known defect in one of the millions of genes we all carry. As a result, the bone marrow fails to make an enzyme, ADA, which is essential for the development of our immune system.

Hundreds of inherited diseases have recently been traced to faults in single genes, but for technical reasons ADA deficiency seems the simplest to tackle.

The researchers have chosen a disease that originates in the bone marrow, because marrow cells can be removed from the body, have new genes added in the laboratory, and then be put

back. Most hereditary disorders are based in tissues such as the muscles, kidneys or nerves, which cannot be manipulated in this way.

Eventually it may be possible to inject genes into the patient's bloodstream and direct them to the cells where they are needed. But today the key step - giving cells a correct copy of their defective gene - has to be done outside the body.

The success of gene therapy depends on the recent discovery that a special type of virus, called a retrovirus, can intro-

Scientists see no
ethical differences

duce new genes efficiently into animal cells. Before it is used, the virus's own genes must be altered: perfect copies of the defective human gene are added, and the viral genes that make retroviruses dangerously infectious are removed. (Some retroviruses induce cancer, and one member of the family has become notorious as the cause of AIDS.)

"We use a disabled retrovirus, whose sole purpose is to carry the gene into the bone marrow and then self-destruct," says Dr French Anderson, who is working on gene therapy at the National Institutes of Health near Washington DC.

"The bone marrow that goes back into the patient has no infectious virus. That's the

critical point, because you certainly don't want to do anything in your therapy that's going to produce another disease."

The world's first trial of human gene therapy is almost certain to take place in the United States because American researchers have much more experience with the genetic engineering of retroviruses than their colleagues in Europe. But first they must convince a large array of regulatory committees that the procedure is safe.

Moreover, the researchers involved in gene therapy are very conscious of public fears about their "playing God" with human nature. They realize that their first trials will be subject to intense scrutiny by the media.

On the other side of the debate are a few people who object to genetic engineering as an unwarranted interference with the natural or God-given processes of life. They see these early attempts to cure hereditary diseases as the first steps in a process that will lead inevitably to eugenics and the irreversible transformation of all future generations.

But the scientists see no ethical difference between the current proposals for gene therapy and the introduction of previous medical procedures, such as organ transplants. Only non-reproductive cells are involved, so the new genes could not be inherited.

No researcher anywhere in the world has announced plans to carry out "germ line" therapy, by adding genes to the reproductive cells (sperm or egg) and therefore passing them on to future generations. But several laboratories have created new strains of mice in this way, by micro-injecting new genes into fertilized mouse eggs. The same could probably be done with human beings, if researchers were able to experiment with hundreds of human eggs and were not held back by moral scruples. This would raise ethical issues greater than any other procedure in the history of medicine.

Clive Cookson
The author is a Science Correspondent of BBC Radio.

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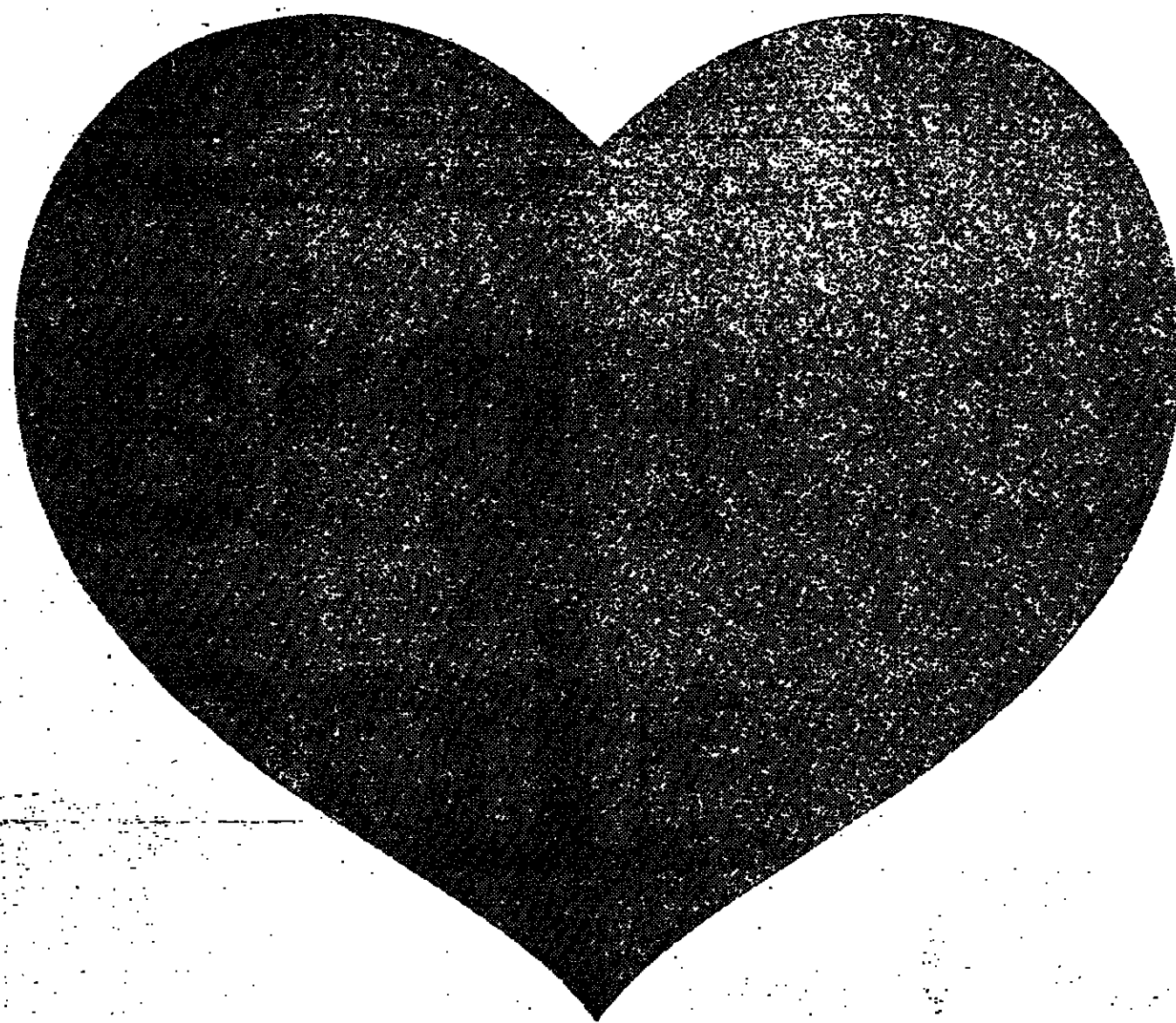
DECEMBER 8, 1941
[AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR]
At 7am (local time) on December 7, 1941, without warning, Japan launched air attacks on the giant US naval base at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese, without any formal declaration of war, yesterday attacked American bases in the Pacific. Later, the Japanese High Command announced that from dawn Japan was in a state of war with Great Britain and the United States in the Western Pacific.
President Roosevelt has ordered the United States Army and Navy to take the necessary action and has mobilized all forces throughout his country.

Earlier it had been announced that President Roosevelt had sent a personal message to the Emperor of Japan. The Japanese reply to the American proposals was described by Mr Cordell Hull as crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions...
The position of Japan is considered here [Washington] to be one of peculiar infamy for the reason that Admiral Nomura, the Ambassador, and Mr Kurosu, the Special Envoy, were actually closeted with the Secretary of State, Mr Cordell Hull, when tidings of the attack on Hawaii and Manila were received.
They had brought what purported to be a reply to Mr Hull's declaration of November 26, and when he had read it Mr Hull turned to them and, after

reminding them of the honour and truth with which he had conducted the negotiations for the past nine months, went on:
"In all my 50 years of public service I have never seen a document [the Japanese reply] that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions - on a scale so huge that I never imagined until today that any Government on this planet was capable of uttering them."
Japan's aeroplanes had already begun their bombing attacks when the two envoys this morning risked a meeting with the Secretary. It is from the White House that news has been given out, and either from that source or by wireless brief bulletins have followed steadily. Not until 5.15 was it announced that Japan had declared war.

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In return we ask only the same levels of co-operation, tolerance and good humour we've been treated to in the past.

Hopefully, the next 60 years will be as good as the last. And why not?

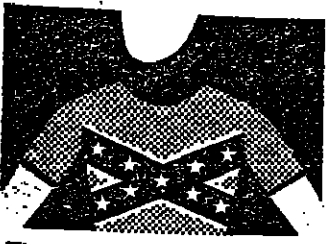
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An age of change from yuppies to yuppies



The present generation of young Americans is reckoned to be the most conservative since the 1950s. After the turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s, this is to many people a welcome development. To them the young seem to be back on course - in the mainstream, decent, hardworking and patriotic.

Many Americans have a nostalgia for the fat fifties, when petrol was cheap, cars had tailfins, the young wore suits and short hair and did not demonstrate - and rock and roll was yet to be. In those days the young and the parental generations were closer together than in the disruptive 1960s and 1970s.

But nostalgia hides the fact that young people in the 1950s were, on the whole, an apathetic generation. They had it easy and they were prematurely middle-aged. Their teachers were appalled by their lack of curiosity about their own country and the world, and their lack of restless energy that brings about change and creates leadership.

Students were portrayed in cartoons as empty suits. On the quiet campuses these stodgy

young people were not much interested in the way the McCarthyism and blacklists and the spiteful inquisitors of the House Committee on Un-American Activities spread fear and corroded the fabric of American life.

Of course, the pendulum swung wildly. Dissidence and disenchantment swept the campuses, civil rights bumped the American axis, and the Vietnam War put the country on a rack of doubt and torment. Ronald Reagan arrived when liberalism and dissent were receding fast and the country was tired of chaos and afraid of more. It was ready for the balm of a return to simpler things and a reaffirmation of pride and pre-eminence among countries.

America is back, the slogan writers say - and sales of the Stars and Stripes have soared. Young people are at their college desks and not demonstrating on the streets. They are joining the forces in large numbers, not burning draft cards.

To some of their elders, the present generation of young Americans seem to be enjoying a reprise of the 1950s. The empty suits are back. Some of the teachers complain that there does not seem to be much inspiration among the students. They ask no questions. They seem so satisfied. They accept.

The new crops is disappointingly self-centred and blinkered, according to some - the me-generation interested only

in making a lot of money. Perhaps the devotion to security is reaction to growing up in a time of dizzying change, technological and social revolution, and high divorce rates. The symbol is the acquisitive youth cult yuppie, striving to remain ever young. They live to buy, wrote *Nousweek* of them.

The economy is of intense interest to the young generation. Its strength and the powerful dollar, in recent years has raised their expectations of making it. Yet they can see the clouds. Their country has the most monstrous debt.

How long can they go on enjoying good times? Is the country borrowing heavily from future generations? Will they let alone their successors, be forced to accept more restricted horizons? And will that cause political discontent?

It certainly seems that the unemployment rate, now running at seven per cent - high for the United States - is not going to decline.

While the better-off young build their reserves, life for many millions of young people has a strong streak of hopelessness and bitterness. More than a fifth of Americans under the age of 18 live below the poverty line - 22 per cent compared with 14.3 per cent 15 years ago.

Their prospects are poor. There is a tremendous waste of human resources and millions of young Americans are being left behind in the economic race.



The face of disenchantment: A demonstrator arrested at San Francisco State College

The old-style family - a working husband, a wife at home with the children - is in the minority. The single-parent family is on the way to being a majority.

For blacks, on the whole, the prospects remain grim. Although the black middle class is a success story, the lives of

millions of young blacks are shrunk by unemployment and poverty. Half of the black children in the country live in poverty and half are born out of wedlock. There is despair - and despair can be tinder.

During the period of economic boom, while the better-off young people of America have

been getting their diplomas and starting work, their society has become more sink or swim. One can only guess at what will happen, but it is likely that the well-off young people will remain conservative to protect their own interests. The gap between them and the poor will widen.

Trevor Fishlock

All the news that fills the space...



The American Press is a mammoth vacuum cleaner of facts, an information machine that sucks up and regurgitates news in a manner so frequently dry and nonsensical, that even an intimate knowledge of the subject in question is no guarantee of understanding the story.

Don't look at the quality, feel the width. Routine, daily stories can run at extraordinary length, beginning on page one of section A, continuing on page 43 of section D, with every possibility that you will pant through to page 45 before reaching the end of a story that in a British newspaper would be continued on one page. Hardly anybody gets that far, of course.

There is a blandness about way that Mr Nixon would have the top American papers. Journalism school - a concept, a hardly known in Britain - teaches young would-be writers that everything must be attributed. Re-

ports have little or no licence to supply information without attaching that silly phrase, 'said a senior official, speaking on condition that he not be identified'.

Spencer Klaw, editor in chief of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, tells a good story. There is a small newspaper in Vermont which relies heavily on *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* news service. Because of the amazing length of the dispatches, the sub-editor's scissors are liberally applied, resulting in a newspaper that is highly readable, eminently entertaining and twice as good as its primary sources.

Journalism's wicked heyday was one of screaming headlines, political bias, bigotry and slavish pursuit of the odd, the peculiar, and the smutty. Today, the press puts itself through agonies to be fair and balanced. One wants to read: 'It will be sunny today, according to a senior meteorological source.'

The Sunday papers in America are 20 lbs of information crammed between thousands of column inches of advertising. No wonder the big publications make a million dollars a week. Mr Klaw knows a man who put his back out when he picked up the Sunday edition of the *New York Times*. A newspaper delivery boy has to be a latter-day Charles Atlas.

The dustbins on a Monday

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Top 10 daily and Sunday newspaper publishers, giving combined average circulations for the six months to September 30, 1984, and principal titles

1. GANNETT CO INC - Daily papers, 88; Sunday, 58 (8,749,831); USA Today, Times Delta, The Morning News, Tucson Arizona Citizen.
2. KNIGHT-RIDDER - Daily, 28; Sunday, 22 (8,118,772); Pioneer Press Dispatch, Charlotte Observer.
3. NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS - Daily, 26; Sunday, 21 (6,541,064); Birmingham News, Huntsville Times, Times Eclypsus.
4. TRIBUNE COMPANY - Daily, 8; Sunday, 7 (6,393,634); Chicago Tribune, New York News, Fort Lauderdale News.
5. TIMES MIRROR COMPANY - Daily, 8; Sunday, 3 (5,791,888); Los Angeles Times, Long Island Newsday, Greenwich Time.
6. NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY - Daily, 24; Sunday, 13 (3,592,211); New York Times, Gainesville Sun, Lake City Reporter.
7. NEWS AMERICA PUBLISHING INC - Daily, 4; Sunday, 3 (3,267,882); New York Post, Boston Herald, San Antonio Express, San Antonio News, Chicago Sun Times.
8. SCRIPPS HOWARD - Daily, 14; Sunday, 7 (3,008,378); Birmingham Post Herald, Fullerton Daily News, Columbus Citizen Journal, El Paso Herald Post.
9. DOW JONES COMPANY - Daily, 23; Sunday, 10 (2,911,939); Wall Street Journal.
10. THOMSON NEWSPAPERS INC - Daily, 88; Sunday, 41 (2,270,552); Barstow Desert Dispatch, Jackson County Floridian, Hanover Evening Sun.

Source: Morton Research, Lynch, Jones & Ryan.

NOVEMBER 23, 1963

(PRESIDENT KENNEDY ASSASSINATED)

At 12.30 pm on November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded by a gunman as he drove through Dallas, Texas. This is how it was reported by The Times.

President Kennedy was assassinated yesterday in Dallas, Texas. Three shots were fired as the President's car passed near an intersection in the main business area of the city. He was hit in the head and died in hospital soon afterwards. Mrs Kennedy was unhurt, but Mr John Connally, the Governor of Texas, who was riding with the President, was hit and gravely wounded.

Vice-President Lyndon Baines Johnson has been sworn in as the new President. He took the oath on board the presidential aircraft while it stood on Love Field, Dallas, preparing to fly to Washington.

The assassination took place as the presidential party drove from the airport into the city of Dallas. One witness said the shots were fired from the window of a building. People flung themselves to the ground as Secret Service agents rushed into the building. A rifle with telescopic sights was found there.

The President was wounded in

the head and collapsed into the arms of his wife. She was heard to say: 'Oh, no' as she cradled his head in her lap and the car, spattered with blood, speeded to Parkland Hospital.

The President was still alive when he reached the hospital. He was taken into an emergency room. Two Roman Catholic priests were called and the last rites were administered. Mr Kennedy died at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (7 p.m. G.M.T.) about 35 minutes after the shots were fired.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson escaped because his car, following the presidential vehicle, was delayed by the large crowds.

President Kennedy was shot through the throat and head, possibly by the same bullet, according to Dr Malcolm Perry, the surgeon who attended him. Dr Perry said that a tracheotomy was performed to relieve the President's breathing and blood and fluid were administered intravenously.

Within an hour of his death the President's body was removed from the hospital and placed upon an aircraft for return to Washington. The car was administered by Federal Judge Sarah Hughes, who wept bitterly. The ceremony was attended by Mrs Johnson and Mrs Kennedy.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as President in the forward compartment of the presidential aircraft before his return to Washington. The oath was administered by Federal Judge Sarah Hughes, who wept bitterly. The ceremony was attended by Mrs Johnson and Mrs Kennedy.